

AP English
Summer Assignment 2009

Required reading:

1. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*
By Thomas C. Foster
2. *A Doll's House*
By Henrik Ibsen
3. *A Tale of Two Cities*
By Charles Dickens
4. *A Raisin in the Sun*
By Lorraine Hansberry

Assignments: Due the first day of class. Twelve points off each day the assignment is late.

1. Read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* and then read the next three texts. Explain how two of the above texts reflect one or more of Foster's ideas. This should be a page in length (for each text), single spaced, 1" margins top, bottom and sides, Font = 12.
2. Keep a separate reading log for #2, 3, and 4 above. The reading log should include the following and should be typed. It is due the first day of school.

Reading Log:

1. Provide a plot summary for each text. The plot summary should include the basic plot structure: exposition, inciting incident, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. If you are not sure what these are, look them up. Identify each clearly in your summary.
2. Investigate the cultural context of the work you are reading and relate it to your text. This should be at least a page in length, for each text, single-spaced (other criteria as above).
3. Choose one important passage from each text. The passage should be interesting and it should generate thoughtful and stimulating discussion. Write a thorough explanation of your quote and its significance. For instance, does it establish a theme? What theme? How and why? Does it give us insight into a character? What character and what insight? How does it do that? Does the quote reveal a symbol(s) that are operating in the text? What purpose does the symbol(s) serve? What is the function of the symbol(s) in the text? Your quote could relate to setting and you could discuss how it operates in the work. Your quote could identify and discuss turning points and how they contribute to the work. This should be at least a page in length, double-spaced (other criteria as above).
4. Your log should identify the main characters in each work, their traits and what motivates them. Provide (8) quotes per trait and motivation, with page number.
5. Your log should identify themes for each work and provide evidence (15 quotes per theme) to support your opinions, with page numbers.

6. Identify significant symbols in each text. You should state what the symbol stands for and provide a quote (one per symbol) to support your opinion. Include page numbers for the quotes.
7. Provide a separate reading log for each text (#2, 3, and 4 above). All your work should be placed in a three ring binder with dividers that clearly state the name of the text.
8. Note: I will be expecting you to annotate your texts as you read (for #2,3,4). Quotes you are using should be underlined in the book and you should be putting marginal notes next to the passages you underline. I will check your books as we discuss each text. This will help you to compile the info as you read and not have to go back into the text to find what you need for the reading logs.

If you have any questions about your assignment over the summer, please call me at 779-3441. Please provide thoughtful and thorough responses in your reading logs. **You will have a test on the readings within the first week of school. You should know the characters, what they have done, the plot, and, of course, the info in your reading logs. You should review this info prior to starting school. We will begin discussing *A Raisin in the Sun* first, as we will be going to the Paramount Theater in September to see a performance of this play.**

Have a good summer!

P.S. I hope you enjoy the book *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. This can help you in analyzing and understanding a text. Also, the author is quite humorous in presenting his ideas.