

AP Literature and Composition Summer Reading

Mr. Gardella

READ ALL OF THIS

Welcome and congratulations. You have been chosen to be a part of the highest level of English Language Arts course available at Cesar Chavez Academy High School. You should be proud of your accomplishments, and recognize that you were chosen for a reason. Throughout your time at CCA, you have shown exemplary skills in your English classes, and have proven through standardized tests (Scantron, ACT, M-STEP, etc.) that you have what it takes to perform in this high-caliber course. That being said, AP Literature and Composition is a very demanding class, and that begins right now.

Now that you are enrolled in AP Literature and Composition, you have a new Summer Reading. The good news is that you can disregard your previous Summer Reading (unless for some reason you are enrolled in both grade-level English and AP, which is highly unlikely). The not-so-good news is that your new Summer Reading assignment is far more difficult than what you were expected to do before. Fear not, for I will be available if you have any questions. The assignment is as follows:

Readings

- *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain. (**Available at school**)
- *Cat's Cradle* by Kurt Vonnegut. (**Available at school**)
- Purchase and read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster
 - You can purchase the book on Amazon through this link: <http://bit.ly/aplitbook>
 - Take notes on anything you find interesting *inside* the book. It is yours, after all.
- Choose **one** of the following poets, and read **five** poems that your poet wrote:
 - Langston Hughes
 - Robert Frost
 - Edgar Allan Poe
 - Walt Whitman
 - Maya Angelou

Writing

Novel Analytical Essay

- Create an analytical essay that links *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *Cat's Cradle* using the information that you have learned from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*.
 - There is no page requirement, but keep these in mind:
 - Every paragraph must be *at least* 7 sentences long.
 - You must use quotes from all three books to prove the relationship between the two novels.
 - The paper must be written in MLA format.

Poetry Analytical Essay

- Create an analytical essay that focuses on **two** of the five poems that you read, linking the analysis to what you have learned from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. (Follow the same rules as the Novel Analytical Essay)

I'm not going to lie to you, this will be difficult. You are looking at nearly 1,000 pages of reading, five poems, and two essays — all of which must be completed within the next month. I want to take this moment to remind you that you are extremely capable of completing this work. It may seem like a challenging task, but that's because it is. You are enrolled in a college-level course, and if properly prepared throughout the school year, you can receive college credit.

This will be a difficult course, but you must believe in your abilities. I will hold all of you to the highest of standards, and it is your job to rise to them. If you are having any second thoughts about this class, I ask that you first discuss it with me. I can make myself available during the week to meet up at the high school.

I look forward to teaching you, and pushing the limits of what you are capable of doing.

-Mr. Gardella

Communication

- If for any reason you need to contact me, please know that there are multiple ways to do so. The easiest way is by email, using this address: **rob.gardella@leonagroup.com**
 - **Please indicate who you are in your initial email, that way I know with whom I am conversing.**
 - You may also contact the school to do so, but keep in mind that I am rarely there during the summer, so it may take some time to get back to you.
- *You must subscribe* to the AP Lit & Comp Remind messaging service. Follow the directions below using your cell phone:
 - **Enter this number: 81010**
 - **Text this message: @aplitcca**
- **I am not your only source of information for this class. You must be willing and able to communicate with one another.** Possible ways to do this could be:
 - Start a Facebook group to get help with assignments or to ask questions of your classmates
 - Start a group text to communicate with each other quickly.
 - Set up weekly meetings at or outside of school (my room is always open to you, so long as I'm at the school)
- In case of emergencies (forgetting what the homework was does not count as an emergency) you can contact my cell phone: **(586) 215-3743**.
 - Please do not send messages or call this number after 9:00 PM on weekdays, and 10:00PM on weekends.
 - This is not to be used to ask questions in the middle of the night, my wife and I are expecting our first child within the next two weeks, and could use all the sleep we can get.
 - Use your best judgement when it comes to contacting me via cell phone.