

## Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignments

Reading Assignments:

***The Kite Runner*** by Khaled Hosseini

***How to Teach Literature Like a Professor*** by Thomas C. Foster

Welcome! I look forward to teaching you next year in AP English Literature and Composition. This course is designed for hard-working students who love literature and enjoy digging for deeper meanings in what they read. It is also, as the course title suggests, a class in which you will express your ideas through writing.

According to the Polk School District Advanced Placement program course expectations, students taking any AP class are required to complete a summer assignment, and AP Literature is no exception. What could be better than reading a few good books during the break?

***The Kite Runner*** by Khaled Hosseini

*The Kite Runner* is a powerful novel revolving around the friendship between two boys who grow up during the end of the monarchy in Afghanistan and the tumultuous rise of the Taliban.

### Assignments

1. Read the enclosed information provided about the author, Khaled Hosseini and “Women and the Taliban.” These two pieces will give you valuable background information. Be prepared to discuss both pieces.
2. Read the novel *The Kite Runner*. As you read, please jot down comments, questions, and feelings you have about the novel. You will turn in the notes for a grade.
3. After you read chapter three, complete the handout “Baba the Bear.” You may write on the handout.
4. Answer the attached questions. Your answers should be in complete sentences and detailed. Be prepared to discuss the questions in a Socratic Seminar (I’ll explain more about Socratic Seminars in class). After the Socratic Seminar, I will collect the answered questions.
5. Write an essay discussing how and why Amir seeks redemption. The essay must be at least five paragraphs and cited properly when you use examples from the text. The completed essay must be typed, double-spaced, Times-New Roman, 12 pt. font.
6. Be prepared to have an AP style multiple-choice test on the novel the first or second day of class.

***How to Read Literature Like a Professor*** (Revised Edition) by Thomas C. Foster

You will have to buy your own copy of this book, but it will be a great addition to your personal library. The nice thing about owning this book is that you can write in it, highlight important information and even use it when you’re in college. (You may want to order it from Amazon.com for a discount, but any bookstore should have it in stock.) Make sure you get the revised edition.

Ms. Barnett

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This book has become extremely important in AP Literature classes because it teaches readers better ways to understand what they are reading. For example, after you read it, you will become aware of patterns that occur in literature as you learn how to better interpret abstract ideas such as themes and symbolism.

Reading this book will be an ongoing assignment during the first semester. There will be a test over chapters 1-10 during the second or third week of school.

### **Assignment for *How to Read Literature Like a Professor***

Read chapters 1-10 and take legible notes on the key ideas presented in each of the first 10 chapters. Your notes can be in the form of sentences or bullet points, and you may use your notes on the test.

Have a wonderful summer. Please feel free to email me over the summer if you have any questions. I don't check my email every day, but I will be sure to respond to you as quickly as possible.

See you in August!

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