



## **AP Literature Summer Reading: 2025-26 Reading Lit Like a Professor**

*“Reading is the sole means by which we slip, involuntarily, often helplessly, into another’s skin, another’s voice, another’s soul.”*

— Joyce Carol Oates

*“To be stories at all they must be a series of events: but it must be understood that this series - the plot, as we call it - is only really a new whereby to catch something else.”*

--- C.S. Lewis

Welcome to Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition and the opportunity to explore great literature!

With that in mind, we will begin our journey with:

### **Required Summer Reading**

1. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Dr. Thomas C. Foster (ISBN 978-0062301673)
  - a. This book, used in many entry level college literature courses and many AP Lit courses around the country, is clear, concise, and extremely witty. We will reference this work throughout *the entire year*, so a clear, working knowledge of the concepts in this book will be *crucial* to your success both in this course and on the AP test.
  - b. While reading, you may take **handwritten** notes (on paper, on sticky note, whatever format works for you, but they may not be typed) that can be used during an assessment of your novel when you return to school. While these notes are not required, they will be helpful when being assessed on your content knowledge of the novel.
  - c. If you are unable to acquire a copy of this text, please contact Mrs. Hamm at [hamm.katherine@rrcs.org](mailto:hamm.katherine@rrcs.org) before the end of the 24-25 school year. She has many extra copies available to borrow for the summer.

### **AP Literature Summer Reading Assignment**

#### **Book #1: *How to Read Literature Like a Professor***

1. You will be given 2-4 short stories upon your return to school.
2. After having time to read the stories outside of class, you will complete an objective multiple choice and/or short answer assessment **and** an in class essay that connects both self-selected and teacher-designated chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* to the content, style, themes, and motifs of your given stories.
3. Your in-class essay will be typed in MLA format and graded based on content, style, grammatical correctness, and your ability to connect concepts garnered from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* to your given stories.
4. You also should be prepared to make connections between *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* and other works we read throughout the year, either in written or spoken (group presentation/Socratic Seminar) format.

Your text must be read by the first day of school, **Wednesday, August 20, 2025.**

If you have any questions about the assignment or cannot acquire *How to Read Lit...* on your own, please feel free to email Mrs. Hamm at:

[hamm.katherine@rrcs.org](mailto:hamm.katherine@rrcs.org)