

AP English Literature and Composition Summer Assignment, 2018-2019

A book, too, can be a star, “explosive material, capable of stirring up fresh life endlessly,” a living fire to lighten the darkness, leading out into the expanding universe. -Madeleine L’Engle

Welcome AP English Literature and Composition Students,

I am looking forward to working with you to engage in the important, challenging, and enjoyable task of studying literature. This summer assignment is designed to prepare you for the college-level reading demands of this course. I would need you to read: *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster and *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Please purchase your own copy of these two books as you will be learning to read “between the lines.” To accomplish this task you will be following the guidelines for active reading by “writing between the lines,” as explained in the attached document titled, *How to Mark a Book* by Mortimer J. Adler.

The purpose of the summer assignment is...

- to provide our class with a topic for literary discussion for the first few weeks of school.
- to establish a basis for comparison with other works we will read.
- to provide a background for how to read literature effectively.

It is recommended that you begin this work early in the summer so that you can enjoy it rather than rushing through at the last minute. The work you do must be authentically yours. Our class discussions will be better when we share original ideas. AP students think for themselves, question what they read, and present their own ideas to their peers with confidence.

If you have questions I will be happy to answer any through e-mail at kathleen.adams@bakerk12.org

Happy reading this summer.
Mrs. Kathy Adams

* Be sure to read the original version of the text, not a children’s or young adult’s edition.

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