Dear Students,

I am extremely excited that you have registered for AP Literature and Composition next year! You have chosen a challenging but rewarding path. AP Lit and Comp is a class for students with intellectual curiosity, a strong work ethic, and a desire to learn. I know all of you have been well-prepared by your past English teachers for the “Wonderful World of Literature” in which we will delve into a wide selection of poetry, drama, and fiction.

In order to prepare for Literature, you will complete a Summer Reading Assignment prior to returning to school in the fall. Your summer assignment has been designed with the following goals in mind: to help you build confidence and competence as readers of complex texts, to give you, when you enter class in the fall, an immediate basis for discussion of literature – elements like narrative viewpoint, symbolism, plot structure, point of view, etc., to set up a basis for comparison with other words we will read this year, to provide you with the beginnings of a repertoire of works you can write about on the AP Literature Exam next spring, and last but not least, to enrich your mind and stimulate your imagination.

Without further ado, your Summer Reading Assignment is to revisit assigned chapters of a non-fiction piece by Thomas C. Foster entitled How to Read Literature Like A Professor and to choose ONE of the following novels to read in its entirety: Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte, Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoyevsky, The Collector by John Fowles, Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier, The Road by Cormac McCarthy, Atonement by Ian McEwan, or The Story of Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski.

The choice of novel you will read and analyze over the summer is yours, to be made from the list of novels above. On the following page you will find brief summaries of each novel (minus spoilers!). The assignment for novel analysis follows. Attached to each novel summary you will find a list of assigned HTRLLP chapters which pair with each specific novel and offer a more in-depth analysis of your reading. You must read your selected novel in full before school begins! Your assignment for HTRLLP is simply to thoroughly read the assigned chapters attached to your chosen novel, also before school begins.

If you are willing and able to purchase your own copies of these books (an option I strongly encourage), you can annotate as you read and will have the books as references for later in the year. Aside from traditional bookstores, you may also want to consider cheaper options for purchases including Amazon.com (the “Buy Used” option), Half.com, ThriftBooks.com (15% off your first order), Barnes & Noble (mention LHS, or 2nd & Charles. If you are unable to purchase the novels, you may check them out from a local library, search for online options, or go to the Google Classroom link provided in the paragraph below to locate PDF versions of each of the novels. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer book checkouts over the summer from the English Department, as most books borrowed over the summer do not return to us in the fall.

Our class will use Remind and Google Classroom to stay connected and remain informed. Please text 81010 to sign up for Remind texts, or sign up at remind.com/join/d2b32de to receive Remind emails. To join the Google Classroom, please go to http://classroom.google.com, log in using your lubbockisd.net email address and password, click the “+” to join the class, and enter code so3kw1.

If you have any questions about the summer reading assignment (or anything else pertaining to next year), please feel free to email me. I hope you will enjoy and learn from your summer reading. I am looking forward to seeing you in class next year! Have a lovely summer!

Ms. Vescovi
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LHS AP Literature & Composition Summer Reading: 2019

Novel List & How to Read Literature Like a Professor Chapters

*** Choose ONE novel from the list to read for your Summer Reading Assignment. You will read the novel in addition to the attached chapters from HTRLLP. ***
(all summaries courtesy of Amazon.com)

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte: Emily Brontë's only novel endures as a work of tremendous and far-reaching influence. Lockwood, the new tenant of Thrushcross Grange, situated on the bleak Yorkshire moors, is forced to seek shelter one night at Wuthering Heights, the home of his landlord. There he discovers the history of the tempestuous events that took place years before. What unfolds is the tale of the intense love between the gypsy foundling Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw. Catherine, forced to choose between passionate, tortured Heathcliff and gentle, well-bred Edgar Linton, surrendered to the expectations of her class. As Heathcliff's bitterness and vengeance at his betrayal is visited upon the next generation, their innocent heirs must struggle to escape the legacy of the past.
(HTRLLP chapters to read with Wuthering Heights: Intro, 3, 8, 10, 12, 16, 17, 19, 20, 24.)

Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoyevsky: Living in a squalid room in St. Petersburg, the indigent but proud Rodion Raskolnikov believes he is above society. Obsessed with the idea of breaking the law, Raskolnikov resolves to kill an old pawnbroker for her cash. Although the murder and robbery are bungled, Raskolnikov manages to escape without being seen. And with nothing to prove his guilt and a mendacious confessor in police custody, Raskolnikov seems to have committed the perfect crime. But in Fyodor Dostoyevsky's world of moral transgressions, with its reason and its consequences, Raskolnikov's plan has a devastating hitch: the feverish delirium of his own conscience.
(HTRLLP chapters to read with Crime and Punishment: Intro, 1, 3, 11, 12, 13, 14, 21, 25, 26.)

The Collector by John Fowles: Hailed as the first modern psychological thriller, The Collector is the internationally bestselling novel that catapulted John Fowles into the front rank of contemporary novelists. This tale of obsessive love--the story of a lonely clerk who collects butterflies and of the beautiful young art student who is his ultimate quarry--remains unparalleled in its power to startle and mesmerize.
(HTRLLP chapters to read with The Collector: Intro, 2, 3, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19, 22, 26.)

Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier: In 1997, Charles Frazier's debut novel Cold Mountain made publishing history when it sailed to the top of The New York Times best-seller list for sixty-one weeks, won numerous literary awards, including the National Book Award, and went on to sell over three million copies. Now, the beloved American epic returns, reissued by Grove Press to coincide with the publication of Frazier's eagerly-anticipated second novel, Thirteen Moons. Sorely wounded and fatally disillusioned in the fighting at Petersburg, a Confederate soldier named Inman decides to walk back to his home in the Blue Ridge mountains to Ada, the woman he loves. His trek across the disintegrating South brings him into intimate and sometimes lethal converse with slaves and marauders, bounty hunters and witches, both helpful and malign. At the same time, the intrepid Ada is trying to revive her father's derelict farm and learning to survive in a world where the old certainties have been swept away. As it
interweaves their stories, *Cold Mountain* asserts itself as an authentic odyssey, hugely powerful, majestically lovely, and keenly moving.

(*HTRLLP chapters to read with Cold Mountain*: Intro, 1, 2, 9, 11, 12, 14, 19, 20, 25.)

**The Road by Cormac McCarthy**: The searing, post-apocalyptic novel destined to become Cormac McCarthy's masterpiece. A father and his son walk alone through burned America. Nothing moves in the ravaged landscape save the ash on the wind. It is cold enough to crack stones, and when the snow falls it is gray. The sky is dark. Their destination is the coast, although they don't know what, if anything, awaits them there. They have nothing; just a pistol to defend themselves against the lawless bands that stalk the road, the clothes they are wearing, a cart of scavenged food—and each other. *The Road* is the profoundly moving story of a journey. It boldly imagines a future in which no hope remains, but in which the father and his son, "each the other's world entire," are sustained by love. Awesome in the totality of its vision, it is an unflinching meditation on the worst and the best that we are capable of: ultimate destructiveness, desperate tenacity, and the tenderness that keeps two people alive in the face of total devastation.

(*HTRLLP chapters to read with The Road*: Intro, 1, 3, 9, 10, 11, 13, 19, 20, 21, 23.)

**Atonement by Ian McEwan**: Ian McEwan's symphonic novel of love and war, childhood and class, guilt and forgiveness provides all the satisfaction of a brilliant narrative and the provocation we have come to expect from this master of English prose. On a hot summer day in 1935, thirteen-year-old Briony Tallis witnesses a moment's flirtation between her older sister, Cecilia, and Robbie Turner, the son of a servant and Cecilia's childhood friend. But Briony's incomplete grasp of adult motives—together with her precocious literary gifts—brings about a crime that will change all their lives. As it follows that crime's repercussions through the chaos and carnage of World War II and into the close of the twentieth century, *Atonement* engages the reader on every conceivable level, with an ease and authority that mark it as a genuine masterpiece.

(*HTRLLP chapters to read with Atonement*: Intro, 1, 2, 10, 11, 16, 17, 19, 21, 26.)

**The Story of Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski**: Born mute, speaking only in sign, Edgar Sawtelle leads an idyllic life with his parents on their farm in remote northern Wisconsin. For generations, the Sawtelles have raised and trained a fictional breed of dog whose remarkable gift for companionship is epitomized by Almondine, Edgar's lifelong friend and ally. Edgar seems poised to carry on his family's traditions, but when catastrophe strikes, he finds his once-peaceful home engulfed in turmoil. Forced to flee into the vast wilderness lying beyond the Sawtelle farm, Edgar comes of age in the wild, fighting for his survival and that of the three yearling dogs who accompany him, until the day he is forced to choose between leaving forever or returning home to confront the mysteries he has left unsolved. Filled with breathtaking scenes—the elemental north woods, the sweep of seasons, an iconic American barn, a fateful vision rendered in the falling rain—*The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* is a meditation on the limits of language and what lies beyond, a brilliantly inventive retelling of an ancient story, and an epic tale of devotion, betrayal, and courage in the American Heartland.

(*HTRLLP chapters to read with The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*: Intro, 1, 5, 10, 12, 14, 19, 21, 23, 26.)
LHS AP Literature & Composition Summer Reading: 2019

Required Novel Analysis (using your novel selection from the list on the previous pages)

As you read, you will create a document entitled “Analysis of (Insert Your Novel’s Title Here)” in which you write numbered notes analyzing major characters, minor characters, setting, plot, themes, key scenes, conclusions, point of view, symbols/motifs, patterns, important quotations, and your reaction as a reader. These notes will help you to review for an in-class novel exam and discussion, as well as to prepare and compose a research paper in class during the first six weeks of school. Another purpose is to encourage thought and reflection on your reading. Online study guides that offer instant summaries and interpretations short-circuit this extremely valuable process. DO NOT USE THEM. Additionally, DO NOT USE any movies as your guidepost! Not only would that be poor practice, it would also be cheating, and cheaters NEVER win …

Analysis Template:

Please number your notes according to this template and feel free to add any additional elements you would like to remember. You may either type or handwrite your notes. These are due the first day of school.

1. Title, Author, Publication date

2. Major Characters
   a. full names, roles in the story and relationships, significance
   b. summarize each characters’ motivation (what drives them, goals, etc.)

3. Important Minor Characters
   a. roles, relationships, significance
   b. are they foils for any major characters?

4. Setting (time, place, detailed description, historical context)

5. Plot
   a. summarize it briefly
   b. chart the exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and denouement
   c. make special note of key conflicts that propel the plot

6. Themes/Big Ideas (list AND comment on at least four - examples: love, hate, war, peace, fear, coming of age, entrapment, etc. …)

7. Describe at least three Key Scenes in detail and explain in full why they are significant to the meaning of the work as a whole

8. Discuss the Ending – is it open-ended or completely resolved?
   a. what do the characters learn, how do they change?
   b. compare the beginning to the ending
   c. what shifted/changed?

9. Narrative Point of View – describe it and explain how it contributes to meaning, how it impacts the reader, and whether or not the narrator is reliable

10. Key Symbols, Motifs, and/or Images – minimum of five of EACH
    a. Symbol: a person, image, word, object, color, idea, action, event, etc. that evokes meanings beyond the literal
    b. Motif: a recurring, unifying element (image, symbol, character type, action, phrase)
    c. Image: a word, phrase, or figure of speech that appeals to the senses

11. Make a running list of memorable quotes, noting page number, speaker, and context
    a. minimum of 15 quotes throughout the novel
    b. make sure you include the SIGNIFICANCE of each quote!

12. Reader Reaction: YOUR thoughts!