

Ryan High Summer Reading 2018
English III: Advanced Placement Language and Composition
Mrs. Katherine Myers kmymers@dentonisd.org

Welcome to the class you've been getting ready for. Your "pre" AP classes have undoubtedly prepared you well for AP English III, a hard-work class with plenty of personal challenges and rewards. The Advanced Placement English Language and Composition course, nationwide, is intended to provide a college-level study of language, rhetoric, and expository writing for high school students who are interested in studying and writing various kinds of analytic or persuasive essays on nonliterary topics. Here at Ryan we will focus, additionally, on American literature as we prepare you also for the AP Literature class and exam your senior year. So, although the actual AP Language exam focuses on non-fiction, we'll get started in the summer with doing some stimulating reading from both genres.

Summer Assignment AP English III

Part One: Required Reading and Writing: Non-fiction – *How to Read Literature*

Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines,
Thomas C. Foster (You may read either the original, 2003 edition or the revised, 2014 one – make sure you are reading the one with “**literature**” and **NOT** “**novel**” in the title; Foster wrote both.)

What does it mean when a fictional hero takes a journey? Shares a meal? Gets drenched in a sudden rain shower? Often, there is much more going on in a novel or poem than is readily visible on the surface - a symbol, maybe, that remains elusive, or an unexpected twist on a character-and there's that sneaking suspicion that the deeper meaning of a literary text keeps escaping you. In this practical and amusing guide to literature, Thomas C. Foster shows how easy and gratifying it is to unlock those hidden truths, and to discover a world where a road leads to a quest; a shared meal may signify a communion; and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just rain. Ranging from major themes to literary models, narrative devices, and form, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* is the perfect companion for making your reading experience more enriching, satisfying, and fun. (From the Publisher)

As you read, take notes in a double-entry journal on Foster's assertions (**strongly stated opinions or claims**). Use standard notebook paper or a spiral composition notebook for your notes; you may handwrite it (**in ink**) since you are responding as you read. Draw a line down the middle of the page. In the left column, quote the assertion exactly, noting the page number in correct parenthetical MLA documentation form. The right column will be from *The Chosen*, and instructions for that are given below.

Part Two: Required Reading: Fiction - *The Chosen*, Chaim Potok-READ THIS NOVEL AFTER HOW TO READ LITERATURE LIKE A PROFESSOR.

Welcome to the world of Hasidic Jews. For many of you, this will be a new cultural experience; Potok terms it “**core culture confrontation.**” As you read, be especially aware of Potok's use of imagery and local color (**writing that exploits the speech, dress, mannerisms, habits of thought, religion, and topography peculiar to a certain region**) of the Hasidic Jewish community in New York. Buy your own copy (used is fine) and make notes in the margins or use post-it notes as you read. Note any questions you have as well as examples of local color. The more notes you have the better. *The Chosen* is another example of the Bildungsroman motif (innocence to experience) you've encountered in several Pre-AP English I and II novels. (If you enjoy this book, you may want to read others by Potok; I suggest *I am the Clay* and *My Name is Asher Lev*.) **Expect a reading exam over *The Chosen* on the second day of class;** then we'll begin our discussion. In the right column of your journal, take notes on Foster's assertions that are present in *The Chosen*.

Example of a Double-Entry Journal for *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Foster and *The Chosen* by Potok

Passage

“Whenever people eat or drink together, it’s communion” (8).

In Ch. 7 of *The Chosen*, Reuven partakes in a ritual Shabbat meal led by Reb Saunders. Foster tells us that partaking in a meal is personal, and we only do so with people we are comfortable with. In this chapter of *The Chosen*, Danny and Reuven are not yet close friends, but this foreshadows that they will be. Reuven also shows off his intelligence during the Talmudic discussion that follows this meal, causing Reb Saunders to approve of Danny and Reuven’s friendship.

Part Three: Summer Fun

Read some more---fiction, non-fiction, essays, editorials from magazines and newspapers. Come armed with ideas for expressing your opinion about anything and everything. Try to attend one of the Shakespeare in the Park performances, a summer musical, a museum, or any other event that might broaden your horizons.

Content Disclaimer:

AP English III is, in essence, a college-level class. Necessarily, because advanced literature courses deal with all facets of living, there will be talk of life, of death, of the various human desires. Also, there may be transgressive language (there will certainly be beautiful language) contained in the work we study. If you feel delicate about such things or are easily offended, let’s talk together about the challenges you might face. You can expect mature discussion of a wide variety of subjects, as prompted by the work under examination.

Other Things You Might Like to Know:

The PSAT (National Merit Qualifying Exam) comes in early October; it contains a verbal section, a writing section, and a math section. We’ll do some practice activities, but I suggest that you utilize the Official SAT Online Practice by College Board. Spend a couple of hours each week on this site (<http://satcollegeboard.org/home>). Time spent practicing for the exam is proven to raise your score; nevertheless, the best way to increase vocabulary is to read voraciously. Do that too.

I am looking forward to having you in my class. It’s going to be a wonderful year of American literature and rhetorical analysis discovery! -Mrs. Myers