Foothill High School

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION
Summer Reading Assignment

AP Lit & Comp Teachers
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We are looking forward to working with you in AP Literature & Composition in the fall. As you know, AP Literature & Composition involves complex texts and detailed analyses requiring students to work at the college level. Our expectation is that you are ready for this level of challenge and understand that a strong work ethic is required.

As you prepare for this class, please remember that the single most effective way to improve your writing is by reading. Research indicates that reading skills can improve simply by increasing the amount and level of your reading. Since success in AP Literature & Composition depends heavily on reading and writing—just as your English classes will in college—please plan to make reading a vital part of your summer. The most effective approach is to read as many books of literary merit as possible.

All summer reading titles are available from public libraries, from the Foothill High School library, from Barnes & Noble, or from any online bookseller, such as amazon.com.

Your summer reading for this course includes the following:

- *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley. Be prepared to write an in-class analytical essay during the first week of school.
  
  AND

  
  Hamilton’s *Mythology* provides a necessary foundation for any serious study of literature.
  
  AND

- A selection of passages from both the Old Testament and the New Testament, which will provide a textual basis for recognizing and understanding biblical allusions that pervade Western literature. (The works of Shakespeare alone contain more than 1,000 Biblical
references alone.) While students may read any translation they choose, required selections include:

- The Creation
- Adam and Eve
- Cain and Abel
- David and Goliath
- Moses (birth -- promised land)
- Abraham and Isaac
- Tower of Babel
- Jonah and the Whale
- Samson and Delilah
- Solomon
- Job
- Joseph/ Coat of Many Colors
- Armageddon

- Daniel in the Lion’s Den
- Elijah
- Jezebel
- Sodom and Gomorrah
- Birth of Jesus
- Parable of the Prodigal Son
- Lazarus
- John the Baptist
- The Last Supper
- Judas
- Crucifixion and Resurrection
- Doubting Tomas
- Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

Please be prepared for a test on Hamilton’s *Mythology* on the second day of class and a group project on Biblical allusions due at the end of the first week of class.

“If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot. There’s no way around these two things that I’m aware of, no shortcut.”

― Stephen King, *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*

“All you have to do is write one true sentence. Write the truest sentence that you know.”

― Ernest Hemingway