

*All modern American literature comes from one book by Mark Twain called  
Huckleberry Finn.*

--Ernest Hemingway

June 1, 2012

Dear 2012-2013 Senior:

Welcome to Advanced Placement Literature & Composition. The assigned summer reading for this year will consist of two texts to read and one film to watch prior to the first day of school in August. The first discussions and assignments of the school year will be based upon this reading, and we will refer back to this common reading experience throughout the school year. The film will serve as an introduction to British society and literature, an understanding of which is vital for success on the AP exam. This year's required texts are:

*How to Read Literature like a Professor* by Thomas Foster  
*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

The course will focus primarily upon preparation for the May exam, but the strong reading and writing skills you may gain through sustained effort will also help you in college classes. By investing your best effort in the summer assignment, you will give yourself a strong start to a successful year.

We continually ask two essential questions in AP Literature and Composition:

***What is the meaning?***

***How is it created?***

Try to keep those questions in mind as you read and watch movies this summer. Whether you are analyzing a love poem or a politician's speech, these two questions will serve you well in all your studies senior year, in college, in graduate school, and in life.

I also recommend that you write at least rough drafts of your college essays this summer, as we do not work on these essays as part of the AP Lit course and fall is always a busy time, especially for seniors.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me. I don't check email every day in the summer, but I'll respond eventually.

I look forward to working with you. Enjoy the summer!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Flather

[Kristen\\_r\\_flather@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Kristen_r_flather@mcpsmd.org)

## Summer Reading Assignment

Over the summer you are to **read two books and watch one film**:

1. How to Read Literature Like a Professor, by Thomas Foster

This is a highly readable overview of literary analysis. Yes, there are allusions to literature you might not have read yet, but there are also many allusions to things you have seen or read, and you will be able to make sense of the main ideas.

2. Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain.

3. Watch a film adaptation of a great piece of British Literature. There are many choices. Look on the PBS website for starters. *Downton Abbey*, *North and South* or *Wives and Daughters* (novels by Elizabeth Gaskell), *Jane Eyre*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Emma*, *Persuasion*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Emma*, *Great Expectations*, *Bleak House*, *Master and Commander*, *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, *Tom Jones*, *The Ideal Husband*. You get the idea.

### As you read and watch...

First, remember to enjoy it. True, Huck Finn is an assigned text, and an AP/college syllabus-caliber, classic work. But it's also a novel that literally millions who have come before you have enjoyed. How to Read Literature like a Professor is also a well-liked book, and it will be a great head start to understanding literary analysis. There is no grade for the enjoyment, but it usually shows in the other two sections. Take notes or make annotations that will help you to complete the following assignments:

As you read the two books and after you watch the film, you have **discussions** to enter ...

### Go to Schoology.com Click on "Enter code" and enter this access code:

38SQS-FDTXQ

Create your profile, then go to AP Literature Summer Reading.

1. For How to Read Literature like a Professor: On Schoology, I have entered three different discussions, each for different sections of the book. For each of those discussions, make three entries (for a total of 9). The entries should be connections from the main idea of a Foster chapter to a story you've read or a film you've seen. You should also briefly respond to another student's idea, one per discussion. **At least 2 of your total number of connections must be to the British film.** You may also make connections to Huckleberry Finn. Including text in your connection, seamlessly embedded into your sentence, will make your connection clear. For example:

Chapter 1, ***Every Trip is a Quest (Except When It's Not)***

**Connection:** In the movie *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*, all four girls go on a kind of journey or quest in the summer, and each girl discovers something unexpected about herself, growing up in the process. They all begin "young, inexperienced, immature, sheltered," but they all gain "self-knowledge"(3) through the various experiences.

2. For Adventures of Huckleberry Finn: You will ask questions, make comments, and respond to other readers using 3 different discussions, set up in Schoology. Read carefully and thoughtfully. I ask you to join the discussions so that I can see your level of engagement. If something you read confuses you, ask about it; someone else will undoubtedly be experiencing the same confusion. Also, your perceptive ideas you can help to expand the understanding of all

students. So make sure that your comments serve that purpose by being thoughtful and original. Look for irony in the novel. Making annotations is another great way to engage with the text, so you might consider doing that as well, especially if you purchase a copy of the novel. We will be studying this text as the first unit of the semester.

**Rubric: Connections to *How to Read Literature like a Professor***

You make at least 9 connections, three for each discussion section,  
1 response per section, and  
include at least 2 connections to the British literature film adaptation. 25  
Connections are clear, apt, and insightful. 25

**Rubric: Discussion on The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn**

For each third of the novel you make three *at least* 3 relevant comments  
and 1 response 30  
Entries display clear, apt, and insightful engagement with text 30

**Total: 110 completion points, 10% of first quarter grade**

*When you get bogged down, remind yourself that the point of all this study is the mastery of an art—intelligent reading and writing—an art you’ll be able to use every day of your life.*

Douglas McMullen, Jr.  
AP Literature Princeton Review