

AP LITERATURE SUMMER READING 2020

The purpose of summer reading is to keep our critical reading skills sharp over the break and to afford us an opportunity to start the year with discussion material. All students taking AP Lit are required to read **one novel and one nonfiction guide to reading literature** during the summer and to start the school year prepared to critically engage with these texts. On the first day of class, you should have completed the following:

1. All students will **first** read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster. You can purchase your own copy or find a pdf online (Be warned that the pdf is for the first edition; there are only minor differences with the newer editions.)
2. All students will read Ken Kesey's, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. You can either check this out from CHS, purchase your own copy, or use a pdf that is available online.
3. During the first weeks of school, there will be a short test, discussions, an in-class essay, and a presentation on the summer reading. These assignments will make up a *significant* portion of your first 6 weeks grade.

* Synopses of the summer reading book #1:

How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas Foster

A lively and entertaining introduction to literature and literary basics, including symbols, themes and contexts, that shows you how to make your everyday reading experience more rewarding and enjoyable.

- Review and discuss the **study guide questions** for this text on the CHS webpage. **Take notes/annotate your text** and discuss with others!
- Be prepared to apply your understanding to *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* as well as all of the texts of the year.

* Synopses of the summer reading #2:

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey

Tyrannical Nurse Ratched rules her ward in an Oregon State mental hospital with a strict and unbending routine, unopposed by her patients, who remain cowed by mind-numbing medication and the threat of electric shock therapy. But her regime is disrupted by the arrival of McMurphy – the swaggering, fun-loving trickster with a devilish grin who resolves to oppose her rules on behalf of his fellow inmates. His struggle is seen through the eyes of Chief Bromden, a seemingly mute half-Indian patient who understands McMurphy's heroic attempt to do battle with the powers that keep them imprisoned. Ken Kesey's extraordinary first novel is an exuberant, ribald and devastatingly honest portrayal of the boundaries between sanity and madness. (Goodreads)

How to “read” *Cuckoo's Nest*:

- Do not simply *read* the book. *Study* it carefully, **take notes/annotate your text** and discuss the book with others how ever quarantine will allow. ☺
- **Important characters and terms:** Be prepared to share your notes in the first week of school.

- Randall Patrick McMurphy
- Chief Bromden
- Nurse Ratched
- Harding
- Billy Bibbit
- Cheswick
- Doctor Spivey
- The Combine
- The Acutes
- The Chronics
- The Orderlies

➤ **Explore** these essential questions and ideas:

- **What is the effect of the unique narrative voice in Kesey's novel?**
- **What does it mean to be alive?**
- **How does this piece of literature aid and/or inform our understanding of the human condition?**
- **Sanity versus Insanity**
 - **"Sanity is not statistical"- Wilson, *Nineteen Eighty-Four***
- **Power**
 - **What is it and who has it?**
 - **How does this reflect or challenge our common conceptions?**
 - **Categories**
 - **Women (nurses)**
 - **Women (wives)**
 - **Women (lovers)**
 - **African Americans**
 - **Native Americans**
 - **Men**
 - **Doctors and nurses**

Happy Reading! Please contact me with any questions. ☺

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