

AP Literature and Composition: Summer 2019 Reading Assignment

You will **read the two texts listed below** and complete the assignments, due the first day of school.

How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas C. Foster ISBN: 978-0062301673

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou ISBN: 978-0345514400

Assignments:

1. While reading *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, you will create a **detailed outline** of the information presented in each chapter. Following your outline of each chapter, you will include a **three-sentence minimum personal response**—this can be a connection to something you have read in the past, what you found most interesting in the chapter and why, etc.
--A sample outline and response of the first chapter has been provided for you-- use this as a model for your outlines and responses to the rest of the chapters.
--Your outlines/responses for each chapter may be typed or neatly handwritten.
2. For every four chapters of *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, you will write a **short personal response (around 5-7 sentences each response)** to those chapters. These may be personal connections you make to what has happened, what you notice about the writing style, what bothered you or made you smile in those chapters, etc. *Your response should show evidence of close reading and reflection.*
3. After you have read both texts, you will write a **3-page typed essay (900-1300 words)**. In the essay, you will analyze *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by applying three chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. Each chapter application to the book should take up approximately one page. For example, if one of the chapters you chose to apply to the book is “Is that a Symbol,” approximately one page of your three page essay will analyze the symbols in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.
--Essay must be typed in Times New Roman/Arial, Size 12, double-spaced--

DUE DATE: I will not accept any assignments emailed to me. On the first day of school you must have your assignment printed and ready when the bell rings for class or the assignment will be counted late and you will receive a full letter grade off the assignment. If your assignment is not turned in on the second day of class, you will be removed from AP Lit.

NOTE—All assignments are to be done solely on an independent basis and without the aid and use of outside sources (this includes the internet, Cliffnotes, Sparknotes, your friends, etc.). These thoughts are to be your own and no one else’s. **Should there be evidence that you have used an outside source, you will receive a zero on the assignment, be written up, and removed from AP Lit.**

Have a great Summer! I will see you in August. Do not hesitate to email me if you have any questions or concerns.

Cynthia Himes (Mayfield in the fall when I see you all again), chimes@msdsc.us

Sample Outline/Response of Chapter 1, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*

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

I. The Quest includes

- a. a quester—a person who goes on a quest (and usually doesn't know)
- b. a place to go
- c. a stated reason to go there
 - i. often b and c happen at the same time
 - ii. someone tells the protagonist to go somewhere and do something
- d. challenges and trials en route
- e. a real reason to go there
 - i. the real reason for a quest never involves the stated reason
 - ii. the real reason for a quest is always self-knowledge

II. Reason for Quest = Self-Knowledge

- a. Questers are often young, inexperienced, immature, sheltered
 - i. more likely to have a long way to go to gain self-knowledge
- b. Example Texts
 - i. *Crying of Lot 49*—a young, unhappy woman goes to Southern California where she's been made executor of a will, encounters dangerous people, a rampage, conspiracy, and realizes she cannot rely on men and begins to rely on herself
 - ii. *Huck Finn*
 - iii. *The Lord of the Rings*
 - iv. *North by Northwest*
 - v. *Star Wars*

III. A Word of Warning

- a. Not everything is a quest—don't assume
 - i. Pay attention, just to see, if a journey is a quest

Personal Response: I recently read the book *Wild* in which the protagonist and real-life person, Cheryl Strayed, loses herself metaphorically after the death of her mother. Cheryl encounters numerous obstacles and doubts herself along the way, but the ultimate goal is paramount to her and drives her towards a sense of personal discovery. Her journey to hike the Pacific Coast Trail alone is one of redemption, realization, and release and is at its core an exceedingly motivational and inspirational look into one person's life to see how we can have no control and total control at the same time.