

AP English: Literature and Composition

Book 1: How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas C. Foster

Book 2: Frankenstein; or, the Modern Prometheus by Mary Shelley

Book 3: Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

Book 4: A book of your choice from the following options: *Wuthering Heights*, *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, *Crime and Punishment*, *Heart of Darkness*, *Moby Dick*, *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, *Billy Bud*, *Ceremony*, *Persuasion*, *Antigone*.

ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE IN HARD COPY THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. DIGITAL VERSIONS OF ASSIGNMENTS 3 AND 4 WILL BE SUBMITTED TO TURNITIN.COM BY THE END OF THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL – 11:59 pm. ASSESSMENTS WILL BE GIVEN ON DAY TWO. STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS AND PASS ASSESSMENTS BY THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL TO REMAIN IN THE CLASS.

- **Assignment for book 1:** *buy an actual copy of this book – not digital*. Annotate it completely. Mark things that seem important, that you have seen before, or that are interesting. Use highlighters, sticky notes/tabs and margin notes for annotations (see a note on this at the end of this assignment). This is a book that will be referred back to all year long. I will be checking your annotations for a grade on the first day of school. Be *very* thorough.
- **Assignment for book 2:** actually read the book; you'll like it; it's really good. Complete a reading journal for this book while you read it. This will be your first big class grade, and it will be due the first day of school. The requirements for the reading journal follow. You will also be tested on Frankenstein the second day of school.

Reading journals:

Buy a composition book dedicated just to English class (you will fill it this year). For every major work we cover, you will complete a reading journal which will then serve as the ultimate study guide come April. For every entry, I may vary the requirements slightly. However, the basic idea is as follows, and this is what you will be assessed on for Frankenstein:

Reading journal requirements:

- **5 points** MLA citation of the work
- **10 points** Background information – brief summary of author, time period, background information that might be relevant (this should be about 1 page)

- **30 points** Major plot points (this should be many pages, bulleted - NOT IN PARAGRAPHS)
- **15 points** Characters with brief description of each major character
- **20 points** Major literary devices you see in the piece *with examples* (about 10)
- **20 points** Your analysis of the book itself, the author's purpose, and the legacy of the piece

Total 100 points

- **Assignment for book 3:**

- A. Read and annotate a copy of this book; work through your annotations thoughtfully, as this is a deceptively simple text. Follow specifications below.

Annotation link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZXgr7_3Kw4

For annotation clarification, click the previous link for a brief overview. This is another teacher's explanation, but it is fairly spot on. If you follow her directions, you will find yourself with a good set of annotations. YOUR ANNOTATIONS WILL BE GRADED, so, it is crucial that you take time to actually annotate the text as you read. **Annotating is not highlighting**; you may highlight if you choose, but you must make handwritten notes in the margins of every chapter or on stickie notes. Whether you choose sticky notes, sticky tabs or highlights with notes, please adhere to the following distinctions:

Yellow = plot points (major developments, major changes, conflict, exposition, etc.)

Green = literary elements (motif, mood, point of view, theme, setting, imagery, tone)

Pink = literary techniques (irony, symbolism, foil, foreshadowing, allusion, repetition)

Orange = characterization (furthers individual characters or relationships between characters, protagonist, antagonist)

Blue = vocabulary and figurative language (idiom, metaphor, simile, alliteration, pun, personification)

- B. Complete the following written assignment; this assignment needs to be printed and turned in on the first day of school. Follow standard MLA 8th edition writing conventions; this should be in formal, AP-style writing. A digital version of your paper must be turned in to turnitin.com by 11:59 pm on

the first day of school. This should be a minimum of two pages. AVOID SUMMARY AT ALL COSTS.

Of Mice and Men was written in the '30s. Steinbeck mentions Westerns several times throughout the book. The "Westerns" genre (often called "Spaghetti Westerns") refers to short movies, magazines and books of a certain agrarian theme and simplistic approach rife with cowboy culture. Do a little online research about Westerns in the early part of the century. Specifically, look at what comprised a Western, who were the stars, what purpose did Westerns serve, why was the population at that time in American history so fascinated with them, etc. Then compare and contrast *Of Mice and Men* with traditional Westerns. What was Steinbeck trying to say? Think about characterization, plot, motif, etc. Was he trying to write a Western? Explain. Be sure to use specific textual references with proper MLA parenthetical citations.

- **Assignment for book 4:** you are choosing from these books because they are in the top 20 most referenced pieces of literature of all time for the AP Lit exam. Choose wisely something that interests you as you very well may end up writing on it for the actual exam. Then, use Foster's book H.T.R.L.L.A.P. to analyze what is happening in your choice book. From a "professor's standpoint," what is your author trying to accomplish/say/illustrate/prove AND how is he going about it? Take notes on at least 5 chapters from H.T.R.L.L.A.P. and correlate Foster's points with evidence from your text. This DOES NOT need to be an essay. A well-developed paragraph on each of the five chapters with clear textual connections should suffice. Remember, you are trying to *prove* that you read, understood, analyzed BOTH texts and that you can apply one to another. You may type this as it will be tuned in to turnitin.com.

*A final note: I have heard of the internet. I know how it works. I know what is available through it. While I do not have a problem with you checking online for clarification once you have already done an assignment, I do take issue with using online sources in lieu of reading entire texts. This is a literature course. If you do not enjoy reading lengthy, often-complex texts, this class may not be for you. At the end of the year, it will just be you and an AP exam in a room for two hours. There will not be any shmoop. You must practice reading and analyzing on your own. This is a great place to start. I hope you are up for the challenge, and I look forward to some exciting conversations. I can't wait to talk about *Of Mice and Men*! Book nerds, unite.