

AP English Literature and Composition  
Summer Reading Assignment  
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Introduction and Purpose

Hello, young reader! I am very excited to be teaching this course, and I hope you are excited to be taking it. You're receiving this summer assignment in order to give you an idea of what we'll be trying to accomplish this year; it will prepare you for the academic rigors ahead. Advanced Placement classes are designed to enrich a student's current knowledge base, but they ultimately test a student on their acumen, as well. This assignment is designed to evaluate your current level of preparation and provide you with a digestible version of the expected course work.

Don't leave this until the last minute! At the same time, in the words of the immortal Douglas Adams, "Don't panic." By completing this assignment, you are embarking on a path to success. The text, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, is the required assignment.

Allusions Project (Optional! You may complete this assignment with a partner.)

A literary allusion is a reference to another work of literature within a specific work. An author, poet, or playwright may employ an allusion for various reasons, such as revealing purpose, thematic content, making a comparison, or to drive a point home. The most common allusions are to classical literature and *The Bible*. Read all of *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton and the following passages from the King James version of *The Bible*. In a typed and bulleted (or numbered) list, give a brief summary (50-100 words) for each of the following biblical and mythical stories.

**Biblical Passages**

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|---|---|
| 1) Genesis, Chapters 1-4 (Creation, Adam & Eve, The Fall, Cain & Abel)                      | 10) Job, 1:1-2:10 (God and Satan discuss Job)                                 |
| 2) Genesis, 6:9-9:7 (This means chapter 6, verse 9 to Chapter 9, verse 7) (Noah, The Flood) | 11) Matthew, 14:1-21 (John the Baptist/5 Loaves of Bread and 2 Fish)          |
| 3) Genesis, 11:1-9 (The Tower of Babel)   | 12) Matthew, 26:14-56, (Thirty Silver Coins/ Gethsemane/Betrayed With a Kiss) |
| 4) Genesis, Chapter 19 (Sodom & Gomorrah, Lot's Wife)                                       | 13) Matthew, 27:27-31 (Mocked by Soldiers)                                    |
| 5) Genesis, 22:1-18 (Abraham & Isaac)   | 14) Luke, 6:24-31 (Wealth/Turning the Other Cheek)                            |
| 6) Exodus, 3:1-10 (The Burning Bush)  | 15) Luke, 10:25-37 (The Good Samaritan)                                       |
| 7) Exodus, 14: 5-31 (The Parting of the Sea)  | 16) Luke, 15:11-32 (The Prodigal Son)   |
| 8) Exodus, Chapter 32 (The Golden Calf)   | 17) John, 2:1-11 (Water into Wine)  |
| 9) I Samuel, Chapters 17 & 18 (David & Goliath/Saul)  | 18) John, 11:1-44 (Lazarus)   |
|   | 19) John, 20:24-31 (Doubting Thomas)  |
|   | 20) Revelations, Chapter 6 (The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse)              |

**Mythology Passages**

- |                        |                                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1) Zeus/Jupiter/Jove   | 16) Demeter and Persephone        |
| 2) Hera/Juno           | 17) Dionysus/Bacchus              |
| 3) Hades/Pluto         | 18) Daedalus and Icarus           |
| 4) Poseidon/Neptune    | 19) Theseus                       |
| 5) Athena/Minerva      | 20) Perseus                       |
| 6) Apollo              | 21) Aeneas and Dido               |
| 7) Artemis/Diana       | 22) Arachne                       |
| 8) Aphrodite/Venus     | 23) The Judgment of Paris         |
| 9) Hermes/Mercury      | 24) The Twelve Labors of Heracles |
| 10) Ares/ Mars         | 25) Midas                         |
| 11) Hephaestus/Vulcan  | 26) Tiresias                      |
| 12) Odysseus/Ulysses   | 27) Sisyphus                      |
| 13) Ajax the Greater   | 28) The Muses                     |
| 14) Adonis             | 29) The Fates                     |
| 15) Narcissus and Echo | 30) Achilles                      |

*How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster (**Not optional**)

This book will introduce the concept of literary analysis and begin to prepare you for the assignments ahead. For each chapter, carefully consider the methods Foster is advising. In outline or bullet fashion, compile a list of the three to five most important points he makes **per chapter**. Keep a copy of this outline (or bulleted list) for yourself to aid you as we move through the year. Bring a copy of this assignment on the first day of class for a grade, but make sure you always have your copy, to serve as a guide for analyzing literature as we move forward.

Final Notes

It may seem a little intimidating right now, but the benefits of this course are numerous, and you certainly have the ability to succeed. We just need to work together to ensure that your abilities reach their optimal level. If you need any help with the literary terms peppered throughout this assignment, you can always visit the websites I have bracketed below. Good luck, and enjoy the journeys through which these great works take us!

[[http://www.tnellen.com/cybereng/lit\\_terms/](http://www.tnellen.com/cybereng/lit_terms/)] This blog has great definitions, but doesn't inundate you with examples.

[[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Literary\\_terms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Literary_terms)] I know you've been told not to trust Wikipedia, but at least the articles from this list are legitimate and will give you a handy reference.