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English IV Honors
Summer 2021
Montverde Academy

English IV Honors Summer Reading List and Assignments

TEXTS

- *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster
- *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood

You can check out a copy from the public library and use sticky notes to mark text for commentary, or you can purchase your own copy so that you can mark the text directly. I strongly recommend purchasing the text – Barnes and Noble and Amazon.com have both the book version AND the e-pub (Nook or Kindle). Also check your local used bookstore. Get the book BEFORE we break for summer. If for some reason you are unable to obtain a copy, contact me ASAP. I cannot help you if I do not know you need help. Not being able to obtain a book IS NOT an excuse for not completing the assignment. Feel free to email me at kara.hymel@montverde.org.

Please type the following work. You may use the following sheets OR create your own as long as it follows the parameters.

Assignment #1: Foster's How to Read Literature Like a Professor

Make a three column and four row chart to complete this task. The headings on the columns should read "Foster," "Atwood," and "Explanation."

- The first column should contain four different chapter titles and significant quotations about reading literature from Foster's book. These are points he makes about how to successfully read. Points will be deducted if all four points are taken from the first chapters of the book.
- The second column should contain four significant quotations from Atwood's novel that **illustrate** each of the quotations from Foster you have chosen.
- The third column should contain four explanations (one about each of the Atwood quotations) about HOW Foster's idea aids in analyzing the quotation from Atwood's novel.

FOSTER Include chapter title, page number, and quote	ATWOOD Include page number and quote	EXPLANATION
<p>Example: <i>"Not all uses of religion are straight, of course. Many modern and postmodern texts are essentially ironic, in which the allusions to biblical sources are used not to heighten continuities between the religious tradition and the contemporary moment but to illustrate a disparity or disruption. Needless to say, such uses of irony can cause trouble" (33).</i></p>	<p>Example: <i>"This is the heart of Gilead, where the war cannot intrude except on television. Where the edges are we aren't sure, they vary, according to the attacks and counterattacks; but this is the center, where nothing moves. The Republic of Gilead, said Aunt Lydia, knows no bounds. Gilead is within you" (23).</i></p>	<p>Example: <i>Gilead is a biblical allusion. The United States has been renamed "the Republic of Gilead," which Atwood uses to make the restrictive society seem, to the citizens, like a better place than it actually is. In the bible, the land of Gilead is a reminder that the Lord provides all good things for our use. Having this title for the land keeps the citizens happy and less likely to break out of the set system. Atwood is using the name ironically. The Gilead of the novel is obviously not the Gilead of the bible. Atwood's Gilead shields its citizens from truth and reality.</i></p>

Assignment #2: Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*

Part I: Recall that a theme is the statement of an idea and not merely a subject.

- Locate and document six passages (quotations) that illuminate a theme in the novel. You should identify at least three different themes.
- For each quoted passage, write an assertion stating the theme expressed.

Quotations with page number(s)	Theme statement
<p>Example: <i>My name isn't Offred, I have another name, which nobody uses now because it's forbidden. I tell myself it doesn't matter, your name is like your telephone number, useful only to others; but what I tell myself is wrong, it does matter. I keep the knowledge of this name like something hidden, some treasure I'll come back to dig up, one day (84).</i></p>	<p><i>Language is a very powerful tool that can be used to oppress individuals.</i></p>

