

2023-2024 ENGLISH IV HONORS SUMMER READING

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Welcome to English IV Honors! I am honored and excited to be making this journey with you as you conclude your high school career. All of the skills you will learn in this class, including closely interpreting and critically analyzing texts and developing techniques to improve your writing, are skills you will use for a lifetime.

In order to meet the demands of an Honors course, we must continue our study of literature and keep our minds sharp for next year. It is my sincerest hope that you find the tasks below as interesting and worthwhile as I do. Trust me, I am not trying to design a scheme to ruin your summer vacation. I do not expect you to lock yourself indoors and devote your entire summer to schoolwork. (By the way, I highly recommend reading outdoors. It is a great place to lose yourself in a story.) My goal is for you to become more proficient readers, writers, and thinkers.

All of the assignments will be due in the first week of class. Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

TASK 1:

Read [How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas Foster](#). I have included a link to an **abridged** version here, which covers the concepts sufficiently for our purposes. **YOU MUST READ THIS TEXT BEFORE YOU READ YOUR FICTION SELECTIONS.** This important nonfiction text is paramount to your success in this class. This book is an extremely helpful tool for developing the analytical and critical reading skills required to do well in this course. We will refer to it constantly throughout the school year, and it makes the reading we do throughout the course a little easier to understand.

TASK 2:

Pick **ONE** novel listed below. Read and annotate it keeping Foster's ideas in mind. **You will need to bring your annotated text to school on Monday, August 21, 2023.** I have included links to online pdf versions of the novel. You may use these or a hard copy of the text.

- [Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson \(1886\)](#): A gothic novella about a London lawyer named Gabriel John Utterson who investigates strange occurrences between his old friend, Dr. Henry Jekyll and the evil Mr. Edward Hyde.
- [The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde \(1891\)](#): A devastating portrait of the effects of evil and debauchery on a young man in late-19th-century England
- [Dracula by Bram Stoker \(1897\)](#): The most popular literary work derived from vampire legends that became the basis for an entire genre of literature and film.
- [1984 by George Orwell \(1949\)](#): A dystopian social science fiction novel and cautionary tale that centers on the consequences of totalitarianism, mass surveillance and repressive regimentation of people and behaviors within society.
- [The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood \(1985\)](#): A futuristic dystopian novel set in a near-future New England in a patriarchal, totalitarian theonomic state known as the Republic of Gilead, which has overthrown the United States government.

TASK 3:

After you have read both books, apply what you learned from Foster to your chosen novel. You will select **four** of Foster's chapters to apply to your novel. You will write a paragraph for each chapter you choose applying the concepts from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* to your reading. This assignment will be due on **Monday, August 21, 2023**.

Requirements:

- Four fully-developed (6-sentence minimum) paragraphs about four different chapters of Foster's novel
- Each paragraph should include **TWO** quotes (properly cited in MLA format) from your novel to support your analysis
- MLA formatted
- Typed
- Times New Roman, 12 point font
- Double-spaced
- Parenthetical Citations - (Author's Last Name Page Number)

Be prepared for a test on *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* **AND** your chosen book in the first few weeks of school!

TASK 4:

Your final assignment is to read any book of your choice. The requirements are loose, but the book must be a full-length novel, play, non-fiction book, or poetry/short story compilation. You should choose a book you haven't read before. After finishing your book, you will prepare a book talk which you will present during the first week of school. Details will follow.

Need suggestions? [Here](#) is the New York Times Bestseller's List. [This](#) is another great list of suggestions for high school students. I find a lot of great books by looking through these. You could also go to the library or a bookstore and browse!