

## AP Literature and Composition Summer Reading 2021

Dear AP Literature Class of 2021-22,

AP English Literature and Composition substitutes for a first-year course in college composition, which means that for many universities and colleges, a qualifying score on the exam allows you to either sidestep a 100-level writing course or receive college credit for it. The central purpose of such a class is to enable you to read and write efficiently and effectively. AP English Literature asks you to apply your analytical skills to how authors craft their works. Because reading complex literature analytically is an essential component of this class, I would like you to work on your reading and analytical skills over the summer. Here are your instructions for summer reading:

1. Join our Google Classroom page. The code is: u54b565
2. Read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster to begin your foray into literary analysis. Please annotate as you go- I will be looking for your annotations when you bring this book to class the first week of school.
3. Read one of the following novels \*with attention to Foster's points\*:  
*Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward  
*The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates  
Is it important that you read Foster's book first in order to consider how these authors use literary tradition and elements to contribute to the meaning of the work as a whole.  
PLEASE NOTE that both of these novels deal with heavy subject matter including different forms of abuse and trauma. If you are concerned about which book to choose based on these, please contact me via email, and I can guide you toward the right choice (or find an alternate novel for you to read).
4. Select 1 chapter from *How to Read Literature as a Professor* and analyze your chosen novel through that particular lens. You will do this in a video essay. I will be posting examples of video essays over the summer with books I am currently reading as examples of what yours could look like. \*Have fun and be creative with these videos! Good thinking and analysis do not have to be boring. This will likely be my first impression of you, so show me your personality.

### REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Video Essay:** Submitted no later than August 9, 2021  
3-5 minutes in length  
Must include direct reference to one chapter in *HTRLLAP* and include at least three short direct quotes or two longer passages (at least a full paragraph) from your novel  
\*this is NOT a prewritten essay that you type and read to the camera. It should be conversational in presentation. You may have a small notecard with an outline or notes, and you should read the quotes or short excerpts from the novel directly from your book, but otherwise, you should speak naturally about your thinking.
2. **Annotated** copy of *HTRLLAP* due in first day of class
3. You will write a full-length AP Exam Free-Response Question on your novel on the first day of class. Be ready to write. (you cannot use your book on these)