

**Valley Forge High School**  
**Summer Reading Assignment**  
**for**  
**Students Entering English IV AP (Grade**  
**12) 2024-2025**

Welcome to Advanced Placement English IV! Summer vacation is the time to refresh, relax, and read as you ready yourself for your senior year in high school.

You are required to read only two books from this selection; however, I encourage you to read more. The wide range of books recommended this summer have been chosen because of their acknowledged literary merit. Many are contemporary novels and may contain mature language and issues. Short descriptions are provided to help you and select books that seem most appropriate for your personal interests and maturity level.

Read the selections in full and submit your own work, which is due **Friday, September 6**. Do not rely on Sparknotes or Cliffs Notes. Plagiarism of any kind, including sharing answers with your peers, will not be tolerated and will result in a 0.

**Assignments (due the first day of class):**

1. Read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines* by Thomas Foster
2. Read one selection from the multicultural literature list
3. Complete **both** assignments

Have a safe and wonderful summer. Happy reading!

## AP English IV (Grade 12) Book Selections

### **Required Reading**

*How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines* by Thomas Foster

In this practical and amusing guide to literature, Thomas Foster demonstrates how easy and rewarding it is to get the most out of literature, analyzing the craft and meaning present in any work. (Non-fiction)

### **Multicultural Literature List (Choose One)**

*Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

A desperate young man plans the perfect crime—the murder of a despicable pawnbroker, an old woman no one loves and no one will mourn. Is it not just, he reasons, for a man of genius to commit such a crime, to transgress moral law—if it will ultimately benefit humanity? Raskolnikov, an impoverished student living in a garret in the gloomy slums of St. Petersburg, carries out his grotesque scheme and plunges into a hell of persecution, madness, and terror.

*Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka

One of Kafka's best-known works, *Metamorphosis* tells the story of salesman Gregor Samsa, who wakes one morning to find himself inexplicably transformed into a huge insect and subsequently struggles to adjust to this new condition.

*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey

Randle Patrick McMurphy is a boisterous, brawling, fun-loving rebel who swaggers into the world of a mental hospital and takes over. A lusty, life-affirming fighter, McMurphy rallies the other patients around him by challenging the dictatorship of Nurse Ratched. He openly defies the rules at every turn. But this defiance soon develops into a grim struggle, an all-out war between two relentless opponents: Nurse Ratched, backed by the full power of authority, and McMurphy, who has only his own indomitable will.

*The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri

Meet the Ganguli family, new arrivals from Calcutta, trying their best to become Americans even as they pine for home. The name they bestow on their firstborn, Gogol, betrays all the conflicts of honoring tradition in a new world — conflicts that will haunt Gogol on his own winding path through divided loyalties, comic detours, and wrenching love affairs.

*1984* by George Orwell

Winston Smith toes the Party line, rewriting history to satisfy the demands of the Ministry of Truth. With each lie he writes, Winston grows to hate the Party that seeks power for its own sake and persecutes those who dare to commit thoughtcrimes. But as he starts to think for himself, Winston can't escape the fact that Big Brother is always watching...

*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

Young scientist Victor Frankenstein, grief-stricken over the death of his mother, sets out in a series of laboratory experiments testing the ability to create life from non-living matter. Soon, his experiments progress further until he creates a humanoid creature eight feet tall. But as Frankenstein soon discovers, a successful experiment does not always equal a positive outcome.

*Slaughterhouse 5* by Kurt Vonnegut

An American classic, *Slaughterhouse 5* is one of the world's great antiwar books. Centering on the infamous World War II firebombing of Dresden, the novel is the result of what Kurt Vonnegut described as a twenty-three-year struggle to write a book about what he had witnessed as an American prisoner of war. It combines historical fiction, science fiction, autobiography, and satire in an account of the life of Billy Pilgrim, a barber's son turned draftee turned optometrist turned alien abductee. As Vonnegut had, Billy experiences the destruction of Dresden as a POW. Unlike Vonnegut, he experiences time travel, or coming "unstuck in time."

*Book Synopses from Amazon*

## 2024-2025

### AP Summer Reading and Writing Assignment

Thomas C. Foster-- *How to Read Literature like a Professor (HTRLLAP)* and one book selection from the reading list

#### Assignment I (HTRLLAP and Multicultural selection)

##### How to Read Literature like a Professor and your multicultural selection

Complete **three** close reading entries, which include:

- A summary of a concept (chapter) from Foster's book. The summary should be one complete paragraph.
- An explanation of how the concept is addressed in the novel. In other words, apply one concept from HTRLLAP to your summer reading book. Your explanation should be a separate paragraph and make sure to cite the text in your explanation.
- Each entry should be on a separate page and should be no longer than one typed page. You should have a total of three pages.
- Use MLA format and MLA in-text citation.

**Summer Reading Rubric (Applied to each paragraph for a total of 36 points)**

<b>Grade per paragraph</b>	<b>4 Well above standard</b>	<b>3 At standard</b>	<b>2 Progressing towards standard</b>	<b>1 Below Standard</b>
<b>Writing Style</b>	Virtually free from grammatical errors. Interesting and varied use of syntax and diction.	Some grammatical errors. Varied use of syntax and diction.	Some grammatical errors. Writing is somewhat choppy.	Errors detract from the meaning. Writing is choppy.
<b>Explanation and connection to text</b>	Thorough and insightful explanation between HTRLLAP and novel. Chapter from HTRLLAP is accurately summarized.	Clear explanation between HTRLLAP and novel. Chapter from HTRLLAP is accurately summarized.	An attempt to explain the connections between HTRLLAP and the novel. Chapter from HTRLLAP is somewhat summarized.	No explanation between HTRLLAP and novel. Summary leaves out key ideas
<b>Use of textual evidence</b>	Textual evidence is used throughout paragraph and further supports and clarifies ideas. Evidence is skillfully woven into writing or introduced and properly cited	Textual evidence is used throughout paragraph, and somewhat supports and clarifies ideas. Evidence is introduced and is cited.	Textual evidence is used throughout paragraph, to support ideas. Evidence is not introduced or citations are incorrect.	Little to no text evidence is use

**Assignment II (for the multicultural selection)**

For the multicultural novel you chose, complete the Data Sheet, which is worth 25 points. Use direct quotes for your citations.

AP English: Literature and Composition

Name:

***Major Works Data Sheet***

<b>Title:</b>	Biographical information about the author:
<b>Author:</b>	
<b>Date of Publication:</b>	
<b>Genre:</b>	
Historical information about the period of publication or setting of the novel:	
	Characteristics of the genre:

Describe the author's style	Give a quoted example of the author's style and explain

Major Works Data  
Sheet

<i>Memorable Quotes</i> at least 3 – more is better	
Quotation, speaker, page	Significance—What does it mean? And Why does it matter? Explain how the quote reveals a theme or character.
1	
2.	
3.	

**Major Works Data Sheet**

<b>Characters</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Role in the story</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Character Traits</b>
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			



### Major Works Data Sheet

Setting	Significance of the opening scene
Symbols or Motifs (at least three)/explain	Significance of the ending/closing scene
1.	
2.	
3.	
Themes – State two themes (this should be a complete sentence) and explain	