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Dear Upcoming **AP Literature Students:**

You will need to read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines* by Thomas Foster. As you read, highlight major points and make note of connections you can make between Foster's points and major texts you've read in high school.

You will also need to read *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare and annotate the text as you read. I'm including a book mark with guidelines for effective annotation. You may also access this on the school website. You will begin using your annotated text the first week of school, so do a thorough job.

In addition, choose 2 books from the book list you typically received from Ms. Schwartz. You may pick up a hard copy from me, and it will be on the school website. During the first week of school, expect writing prompts, discussion prompts, and creative assignments focusing on your reading of these 2 books. It will be to your advantage if you take some kind of notes and pay meticulous attention to the readings.

You will be held accountable for reading these **4 texts** in the first week of school. It is your responsibility to be done reading by that point and extensions will not be granted.

Please recognize that it is perfectly acceptable to struggle with some of your reading; you only become a better reader by finding material that causes you to reach and struggle. If you consult other sources to aid your comprehension, make sure you use these sources to *support* your comprehension and *not replace* the reading of the text itself. Doing independent research about the time period of each text may be helpful to you. While you have a choice of texts from this list, **please do not choose one that you have already read, has been read to you, or whose movie you have seen (even the cartoon). Additionally, children's illustrated classics and abridged versions are an insult to your lexile level.**

Some of the texts deal with mature topics or use language that you might find offensive. It would be to your benefit to do a little research before choosing your texts to ensure that the subject matter and language are within your acceptable reading standards. If you run into something you are uncomfortable reading, choose a new text!

PLEASE NOTE:

This is not something you can put off until the last week of the summer, so get started as soon as possible. Some of the reading will be difficult. Plan ahead: give yourself enough time to switch texts if you find one that you do not like. You are responsible for obtaining copies of the texts either through a library, a bookstore, or borrowing from a friend.

Remember, you are making a commitment as an AP student to complete your work to the best of your ability. I expect an AP level performance. Please plan accordingly with your time. If you lose this list, you can find it on the school website.

I look forward to working with you! Feel free to email me with questions. Happy reading!

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