

AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION SUMMER READING INFORMATION

TEACHER: Mrs. Bryant

I am very excited about teaching the AP Literature and Composition class this next year. I know that we have weeks of long, lazy summer ahead before we begin, and I have just the thing to fill up some of those boring hours—summer reading!

BOOK CHOICES:

AP students get to read **two** books.

***The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver**

- Kingsolver traces the story of a missionary and his family—a wife and four daughters—who travel to the Congo in 1959 to take Christianity to the natives. Nathan Price and his family face problems brought on by faulty expectations, cultural differences, political unrest, and his own cloudy motivations.

***How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines, Revised Edition* (ISBN 978-0-06-230167-3) by Thomas C. Foster**

- This is a book that will be really useful to you. I know that sounds boring, but it really is written in a “lively and entertaining” way and not just like a textbook. Plan ahead. Read a chapter at a time, and you will be fine. Think about how information in this book applies to *The Poisonwood Bible* and other works you have read. Be ready for discussion and quizzing when school starts. Be ready to apply it to the books we will be reading.

INSTRUCTIONS: You need to have your own books, which you must annotate liberally. The information below applies to the novel.

- Read with a pen or pencil in your hand, making notes as you read. **DO NOT HIGHLIGHT.** (I know that seems weird, but if you just highlight, you end up with a yellow book and no real information. What did you mean when you highlighted that passage? Annotating needs words and symbols!) So write words, circle things, and maybe draw arrows or symbols that only you understand.
- Mark and make notes about lines that stand out to you. You may agree, disagree, question, or simply appreciate their beauty.
- Write questions or comments in the margins. **This is important.** Skillful readers ask questions, even if someone else thinks the questions are stupid. Skillful readers take risks, form hypotheses, and offer observations—even if their ideas turn out to be wrong.
- Write notes in the margins about what seem to be important subjects that might contribute to theme or characterization.
- Look for what motivates each character.
- Look for and note repetitions, patterns, ironies, and allusions—or any other important elements.

In *How to Read...Like a Professor*, your annotating will look different.

- Underline things that you think capture the essence of what the author is trying to communicate.
- Write in the margin to help you remember how you understood what he is saying.
- Use brackets to indicate parts you think are really important so that you can find them later. Words that explain why can be helpful for you.
- Write in the margin about books (including *PB*) in which you have observed what he is talking about.

FIRST DAYS OF SCHOOL:

We will begin work on the FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. It will not be a wasted day, so be ready.

- Bring your annotated book to class with you. **Expect this to be checked!**
- Expect a quiz and other activities related to the book on the very first day.
- Reading Sparknotes or other similar material will not get you by on this quiz. It will definitely not get you by in AP.