

2019-2020 AP Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignment

Congratulations on signing up for AP Literature and Composition during the 2019-2020 school year. I'm so excited to spend the year reading, writing, and speaking with you about some of the most amazing words ever written.

Over the summer I'm asking you to read TWO books that will help us prepare for our year of studying literature:

1. *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel
2. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: Revised Edition* by Thomas C. Foster
(please note the year of publication! We are reading the 2014 edition, not the 2003.)

Both of these books are available from the public library. Or you may purchase the books at bookstores or online. I encourage you to purchase the books and make notes directly in them (if possible). Or if you only borrow them, make a really good set of notes about your reading.

Station Eleven is a post-apocalyptic novel. In the book almost all the human population of the world is destroyed by a massive flu pandemic. A group of actors and musicians travel from town to town sharing music and the works of Shakespeare to other survivors. When faced with a new threat, they must risk everything in order to save art and humanity.

I am choosing for all of us to read this novel over the summer because, in the fall, the Scenic Regional Library System is leading a "Big Read" encouraging as many people in Franklin County to read the book. Along with activities around the novel, they are also bringing the author to speak at East Central College in November. So after you finish the novel, have your parents read it too! Tell them Mr. Flynn said so.

The second book, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, is a how-to guide for reading and, more importantly, understanding literature. The elements of reading literature that Foster discusses in the book are the things that we will be using throughout the year.

The book is laugh-out-loud funny and full of some of the best advice about reading that I have ever seen. With chapter titles like "Every Trip Is a Quest (Except When It's Not)," "Nice to Eat with You (Acts of Communion)," and "Nice to Eat You (Acts of Vampires)" it's easy to see how Foster does his best to make reading enjoyable and enlightening.

Summer Reading Tasks

Before you leave for the summer vacation, you need to join the Google Classroom page for next year's AP Literature and Composition course. To enroll, go to classroom.google.com and use the join code **x1gdo29** to add yourself to the class. The assignments listed below will be posted on the classroom page as well.

for *Station Eleven*

- Divide the book into four somewhat equal parts.
- After you finish reading each part, write a reflection about what was most important to you in that portion of the book. You will have FOUR of these reflections when you are finished with the book. Each reflection should be around 150 words. Worry more about what you write than how many words you write.
- After you finish the whole book (and writing the four reflections), consider the novel as a whole. Write a 300-word explanation of what the book means to you. What do you better understand about the world from having read this novel? How has your thinking changed or sharpened after reading this book? Point to specific events or words in the book to support and illustrate your comments.

The best way to complete these assignments is to go to the Station Eleven Summer Reading Reflections assignment on classroom and create a new Doc from the assignment. Then you can write all of your reflections in one place and be able to turn them in on the first day of school. Finally, go to the Station Eleven Summer Reading Summary assignment and create a new Doc from the assignment and write your final thoughts about the book.

for *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* (HTRLLAP)

- Over the summer you need to read the first TEN (10) chapters of this book. You are free to read the remaining chapters but are not required to do so.
- After you read each chapter, complete a top 5 list of the 5 most important things you learned. You may paraphrase the information that you found or you may quote the book directly.

The best way to complete this assignment is to go to the HTRLLAP Summer Reading assignment on classroom and create a new Doc from the assignment. Then you can write all of your top 5 lists in one place and be able to turn them in on the first day of school.

Assignments for both books are due on the first day of school.