

May 2019

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the wonderful world of Advanced Placement Literature! This class will plumb the depths of fiction, poetry, and drama to uncover their truths about the human condition. We will make these discoveries through the processes of close reading, analysis, and writing, so be prepared to peel some onions!

This class is structured to meet the Common Core Standards and prepare you to take the Advanced Placement Literature Test. Both the standards and the test are rigorous endeavors that require strong commitments from the students involved, so it is recommended that participating students read and write at or above the 12<sup>th</sup> grade level.

To start the year, you should read and complete the assignments on the following texts and be ready to turn them in and discuss. This way you will be prepared to participate from the first day of class. The two books you must read this summer are as follows:

*How to Read Literature Like a Professor* - Thomas C. Foster

*The Sun Also Rises* – Ernest Hemingway

Write comprehensive notes **on each chapter**. These notes will be collected. There will be an exam on both of the books within two weeks of the beginning of your 2019-2020 school year.

You may check these books out from the Grand Terrace High School Library. It is highly recommended that you purchase **your own copies** so you can annotate them as you read. These annotations will help you better-understand the text as you break down difficult language, analyze figurative language, connect diction to tone, and notice patterns within a text that contribute to meaning. You may still annotate a borrowed book by using Post-It Notes, but making notes directly in your own book that you can keep makes it easier for you to return to your observations and make connections between many of the readings we will be doing.

Please contact either of the teachers below if you have any questions about the readings or assignments over the summer, and we look forward to meeting you in the fall.

Regards,

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