

2011 SUMMER READING **GRADE 12** Stoneham High School, Stoneham, MA
Advanced Placement

Welcome to AP! Students will be evaluated on summer reading during the first few days of school. Students must read a total of **three** books. Students are to complete the “Fiction Report Activity” (see attached) on the **two novels** they read this summer in preparation for an essay/Socratic Seminar assignment. Students should also take notes on the Foster book— annotations, highlighting, notecards, sticky notes, summaries, etc. are all good options. Students should also complete the study guide (see attached); no “Fiction Report Activity” is required for this selection. *Books may be purchased at local bookstores such as The Book Oasis on Main Street, on-line, or borrowed from the Stoneham Public Library. **Due to the use of Foster’s book as a resource throughout the school year, it is highly recommended students purchase this book.***

ADVANCED PLACEMENT– You must read the book by Thomas Foster. Then choose two books from the three listed below.

Required and this should be read before reading the novels.

How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas Foster. This non-fiction text will guide you through the world of literature, explaining in layman’s terms many elements including how to recognize symbols or themes, understanding quests and allusions, and discovering the hidden meaning beyond the literal words on the page. It is recommended you begin your summer reading with this book so that you may practice your newly acquired skills on future texts. There will be a quiz on Foster’s book at the beginning of the school year (see above).

Choose **two** from the three listed below.

Beloved by Toni Morrison. In the troubled years following the Civil War, the spirit of a murdered child haunts the Ohio home of a former slave. This angry, destructive ghost breaks mirrors, leaves its fingerprints in cake icing, and generally makes life difficult for Sethe and her family; nevertheless, the woman finds the haunting oddly comforting for the spirit is that of her own dead baby, never named, thought of only as Beloved. (Can be downloaded to Pcs, iPods, and MP3 players from Stoneham Public Library)

A Passage to India by E.M.Forster. This novel is set against the backdrop of the British Raj and the Indian Independence Movement in the 1920s, bringing out the racial tensions and prejudices between indigenous Indians and the British Colonists who rule India.

Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert. Flaubert’s first published novel and considered his masterpiece, *Madame Bovary* focuses on a doctor’s wife, Emma Bovary, who has adulterous affairs and lives beyond her means in order to escape the banalities and emptiness of provincial life. Note the gender and class issues. (Can be downloaded to Pcs, iPods, and MP3 players from Stoneham Public Library)

Fiction Report Activity

Report Format – Fiction

A fiction report is just as challenging to write as an essay, if not more so. To do the job well, you have to see the story in its elements, then specify them succinctly and accurately in a word document. (Feel free to use a format that works for you – bullets, etc.) DO NOT plagiarize. We want to see what you can do. In this assignment, you are asked to include the following:

1. Title and original date of publication
2. Author's name and dates
3. Protagonist—identify and detail character's traits or features
4. Antagonist—identify and detail any characteristics
5. Conflict of protagonist and antagonist—short description
6. Minor characters—briefly identify
7. Setting—short description
8. Narrator/Point of View—identify
9. Memorable/Significant Quotes—List five quotes (with page numbers). Explain why you believe each quote is significant to the novel as a whole.
10. Symbols—Identify major symbols and briefly explain what each represents.
11. Tone—Describe the author's apparent feelings toward central character or main event, as well as it can be determined.
12. Themes/ideas for discussion-list three universal understandings—ideas that may apply to a variety of readings—that you gained from reading this text.
13. Evaluation—Provide a concise opinion regarding the story itself, the characters, the lesson/message, the writing, the author's feelings, etc.

Fiction Report Sample

(Student's name) (Course and section)

Nathaniel Hawthorne 1804-64 "Young Goodman Brown" 1846

Protagonist: Goodman Brown, a young man who kisses his wife goodnight one evening and then sets out on an errand never to return as the same person. His bitterness and cynicism, as a result of that evening's errand, follow him to his grave.

Antagonist: Brown's own natural depravity that he sees reflected in everyone else.

Conflict: Once Brown realizes (the night that he is walking in the woods with the devil) that he is no different than anyone else, he is miserable because those he has known and loved did not live up to his expectations. As a result, he is disillusioned and bitter for the rest of his life.

Minor Characters: Faith- Goodman's wife, the stranger Brown is meeting, a former Sunday school teacher, his minister, a deacon.

Setting: Mostly takes place deep in a dark forest where he has an appointment with the devil.

Narrator/Point of View: Third person omniscient

Memorable/Significant Quotes: (1) "On he flew among the black pines, brandishing his staff with frenzied gestures, now giving vent to an inspiration of horrid blasphemy, and now shouting forth such laughter as set all the echoes of the forest laughing like demons around him. The fiend in his own shape is less hideous than when he rages in the breast of man" (2142). Explanation: This passage suggests that some of the shame and horror Goodman Brown feels when he returns to Salem Village may come from his feeling of weakness at having succumbed to evil. Goodman Brown resists the devil while he still believes that various members of his family and community are godly, but when he is shown, one by one, that they are all servants of the devil, he gives in to his dark side completely and grabs the devil's staff. The change that comes over him after either waking up from his dream or returning from the ceremony can be explained partially by his shame at having fallen so quickly and dramatically into evil.

Symbols: 1) pink ribbons on Faith's cap--innocence and blind trust 2) dark forest--place of evil where Brown loses his innocence 3) sunset--the end of the day coincides with the end of Brown's faith in his fellow man 4) walking stick--similar to a serpent, obviously a comparison to the serpent in the Garden of Eden who tempted Eve 5) Goodman Brown--Every man

Tone: Disappointment and regret that Brown throws away everything (he is not able to enjoy life, he cannot face his friends and loved ones without suspicion--especially his wife Faith, he has no hope for the afterlife). While Hawthorne thinks Brown is a fool, he also seems to point out that even the most pious people guard some rather unsavory secrets about their lives.

Themes: (1) The realization that evil can infect people who seem upright. (2) One man's virtue is another man's sin, and vice versa. (3) How the Puritans' strict moral code and overemphasis on the sinfulness of humankind foster undue suspicion and distrust.

Evaluation: Although Hawthorne's prose is rather flowery and stiff for today's world, the story is still gripping. The relevance of Goodman Brown's experience lies in the fact that each of us must face that moment we move from the innocence of the world where we would like to live to the reality of the world that actually exists. The more that one reads this account, the more there is to think about.

How to Read Literature Like a Professor Guided Questions

1. **Quests:** What should one look for to know a story is a quest? What is the essential reason for a quest?
2. **Vampires:** If ghost and vampires are never simply about ghosts and vampires, what abstract ideas might they represent?
3. **Sonnets:** In general, how do all the “parts” of a sonnet relate to each other and contribute to the overall meaning of the poem?
4. Repeated throughout this book is the notion that there is only one story (Chapters 5, 8, 9, “Interlude”, and “A Test Case”). What evidence does Foster provide to support this notion and how does this change your perspective of literature?
5. **Allusions:** List the two most commonly referenced texts and explain why they are so often alluded to.
6. **Weather is significant (Chapter 10)—so are seasons (Chapter 20).** Explain what rain, fog, snow, and the four seasons add to a story’s meaning.
7. There are two categories of violence used in literature: character-to-character and narrative violence. What reasons do authors have for violence in literature?
8. **Symbolism:** What’s the difference between symbolism and allegory? How can you recognize symbols (hint: look on page 106)?
9. How do politics influence literature (or vice versa)?
10. **Christ Figures:** What are the signs that a character is a Christ figure?
11. **Flight (Chapter 15) symbolizes what? Water (Chapter 18) is used to...?**
12. **Physical deformity, blindness, heart disease, and illness all have meaning beyond the literal.** Briefly define the significance of each of these conditions as they are used in literature.
13. What does Foster mean when he says, “Don’t read with your eyes” (226)?
14. “Irony trumps everything” (235). How? Why?
15. After the short story in “A Test Case,” Foster provides 2 general questions for understanding the significance of a story, and rules for answering these questions. What are the questions/rules and how will you apply these to your own reading?