The first part of the summer assignment is designed to help you prepare for college and the AP Literature Exam, where skills developed by avid reading are essential. Only the well-read student can respond intelligently to any essay question on the AP exam; therefore, summer reading is vital to your success. The summer assignment for AP Literature not only indicates your willingness to work hard, but it also measures your commitment to the course.

The purpose of the summer reading assignment is complex:

• To help build confidence and competence as readers of complex texts

• To give you, when you enter the class in the fall, an immediate basis for discussion of literature-elements such as theme, characterization, viewpoint, symbolism, plot structure, setting, etc.

• To set up a basis for comparison with other works we will read during the year

• To provide you with the beginnings of a repertoire of works you can write about on the AP Literature exam next spring

• To establish the mind-set of a life-long reader

• To offer you the experience of the intellectual depth and rigor of college-level coursework

Part two of the summer assignment is to write a college/scholarship essay. Many of you will be applying for early decision/entrance into the colleges of your choosing. As a department, we would like for you to get a head start on that process by writing an essay based on commonly used prompts from colleges across the nation.

The writing of this narrative essay helps us to see where you are as a writer and how we can help you improve. In addition, we will be working with these essays when you return to school in August, so having a draft of an essay allows us to go directly into the editing, revising, and polishing of the writing process.
AP Literature
Summer Reading 2018

There are two parts to the AP Literature summer reading assignment:

**Part One:** You must read the assigned chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster, and then apply what you have learned from this text as you read **ONE** of the following novels:

- *A Man Called Ove* by Frederik Backman
- *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah
- *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin
- *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr
- *The Smell of Other People’s Houses* by Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock

**Part Two** of the summer assignment is to write a college essay.

*It is expected that all parts of the assignment will meet the requirements of *M.L.A. format.*

**Part One and Part Two are due on Friday, August 17, 2018.** You will be required to turn in a digital copy of this assignment as well as a hard copy. Be sure to save your work so that it can be easily accessed (i.e. Dropbox, flash drive, etc.)

Part One – Part A: The Text

**Read** and **Annotate** chapters 1, 10, 19, 21 and 25 in *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*; then relate these chapters to the novel you choose to read. (See instructions below.)

Part One – Part B: The Novel

I. Read one novel from the list of four.

II. While reading this novel, you should be annotating, marking the novel, and recording page numbers of specific scenes or quotes that you find meaningful or interesting.

III. When you have finished, refer back to *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. For each chapter you read in *HTRLLAP*, find an example from your novel and explain how the author uses this writing technique. This should be multiple paragraphs. Quotes from both texts are to be used to support any statements. Specific instructions for this assignment can be found on the back of this sheet.

***In the first few days of class, you will be required to participate in a literature circle discussion and your knowledge of the novel will be assessed with a timed essay.***
Relating *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster to *A Man Called Ove*, *The Nightingale*, *All the Light We Cannot See*, *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry*, OR *The Smell of Other People’s Houses.*

*Directions:* Using quotations from both texts, answer the question accompanying the quotation. This should be a well-written discussion (i.e. multiple paragraphs) of the message Foster is expressing in *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* and the message the author is expressing in his or her novel. This portion of the assignment is due on 8/19/16.

1. **Every Trip is a Quest (Chapter One):** — “The real reason for a quest is always self-knowledge” (Foster 3).

   In the novel, what is the quest? Choose a character and explain how he or she gains self-knowledge.

2. **It’s More Than Just Rain or Snow (Chapter Ten):** — “It’s never just rain” (Foster 75).

   Choose a scene where weather or the environment is more than what it seems and explain the significance.

3. **Geography Matters (Chapter 19):** — “Geography in literature...can be revelatory of virtually any element in the work. Theme? Sure. Symbol? No problem. Plot? Without a doubt” (Foster 166).

   Pay special attention to the geography in the novel and explain its importance in the story, the characters, and the message the author is sending to his or her readers.

4. **Marked for Greatness (Chapter 21):** — “How many stories do you know in which the hero is different from everyone else in some way. . .” (Foster 195).

   Who is the hero in the novel? How do you know he or she is the hero? Is there a visible, physical difference between the hero and other characters?

5. **Don’t Read With Your Eyes (Chapter 25):** — “...take the works as they were intended to be taken...” (Foster 228).

   Choose a quote that reflects the overall meaning of the work. What did you glean from this reading experience?
Part Two: College Entrance Essay / Personal Narrative

You will need to do a considerable amount of introspection to complete this essay. This is meant to be personal and should reveal your intellect, desire, and character. This is an application essay in which you should not TELL a story - you should SHOW who you are through your personal experiences. YOU MUST SHOW WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED ABOUT YOURSELF!

Therefore, you should avoid using passive verbs like "is/was" or "are/were," and replace them with active verbs that show action and emotion. Also, you obviously must write in first person (I, me, we, etc.) about one of your favorite subjects: YOURSELF! Although you should write in first person, avoid overusing personal pronouns like "I" and "my." Although the structure is truly optional, make sure your reader can follow with a clear beginning, middle, and end. The narrative should be 250-500 words (typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. font)

Choose ONE of the following prompts:

A. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
B. The lessons we take from failure can be fundamental to later success. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
C. Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?
D. Describe a place or environment where you are perfectly content. What do you do or experience there, and why is it meaningful to you?
E. Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.
F. Indicate an individual who has a significant influence on you and your personal growth. Describe that influence and how it affects your character.
G. Tell us about a personal quality, talent, accomplishment, contribution or experience that’s important to you. What about this quality or accomplishment make you proud and how does it relate to the person you are?
H. Describe a problem you’ve solved or a problem you’d like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma-anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
I. Discuss some issue of personal, local, national, or international concern. Specifically how has this issue personally impacted your life?

Hints and Tips:
1 – A great application essay will present a vivid personal and compelling view of you to your teacher and/or a college admissions board.
2 – Narrow your topic and keep your focus on one great idea. Admissions officers read hundreds of essays each day, and they have many submissions on the same few topics. Try to make yours unique.
3 – You don’t have to write about the 4 “D’s”: death, divorce, drugs, and depression. Don’t think that you must have had a tragedy or trauma in your life to have a good essay topic. You can write about common happenings such as riding a bicycle or failing a test; the magic comes in how you approach the topic.
4 – Make sure the real you comes out in your essay. VOICE is the most important: your personal voice must be communicated through your writing style.
5 – After you have finished, ask yourself if anyone else could have written the essay. If the answer is “yes,” it is not personal and individual enough for an admissions essay.
2018 AP Literature Summer Assignment Rubric
Please bring this rubric with your assignments on August 17.

Name_________________________________________

Part One: Due 8/17/18

______ 20 points (In the novel, what is the quest? Choose a character and explain how he/she gains self-knowledge.)

______ 20 points (Choose a scene where weather is more than just weather and explain the significance.)

______ 20 points (Discuss the geography in the novel and its importance to the novel.)

______ 20 points (Who is the hero in the novel? How do you know he/she is the hero? Is there a visible, physical difference between the hero and other characters?)

______ 20 points (Choose a quote that reflects the overall meaning of the work. What did you glean from this reading experience?)

______ /100 points Total