

May, 2019

Dear *AP Literature and Composition* Scholar,

It is with great zeal that I welcome you to your *AP Literature and Composition* class. I am so, very excited to be your guide on this academic journey with you. Like all serious ventures, preparation is paramount, so I am writing you before your break for the summer, so that I can encourage you to properly draw up the skills necessary for this rigorous but enthralling class.

1) **First and foremost, I am providing you with a list of 91 collegiate words that I expect you to master and begin applying to your written and spoken literary analysis. For these words, I have made for you a Quizlet to study. You can also find this Quizlet on my website.**

<https://quizlet.com/46025560/ap-summer-vocabulary-flash-cards/>

I will hold you responsible at the outset of the semester to demonstrate your mastery of these words, so be prepared to be assessed on these words when we meet in the Fall. The level of vocabulary on the AP test questions and the texts we will be exploring is very advanced, so it's important that we develop our lexicon to the highest degree.

2) **Throughout the summer you should also use the following Quizlet Link to study the 116 Literary Devices and Terms that I expect my scholars to know:**

<https://quizlet.com/83516321/ap-lit-comp-literary-devices-and-terms-flash-cards/>

Many of these terms you already know, as you have learned them since elementary school. Others may require some review or meticulous studying. You will become an advanced literary scholar. This link can also be found on my website: **It's imperative that you practice using Quizlet's variety of learning activities from flash cards, to practice tests, to games.** Don't be daunted by the number of or sophistication of these terms. I assure you that when you couple your studies with the resources, games and practice that I will give you throughout the year, you will master these terms. ***There will be an assessment on these terms when you return in the Fall.***

3) **As summer comes to a close, about a week before class begins, I want you to purchase and read *When the Emperor was Divine* by Julie Otsuka. I have also provided you with a slideshow on this novel, that I think you will find extremely beneficial. I can't impress upon you enough how imperative it is that you have your own copies of each book we read in class so that you can properly annotate all readings. However, if you absolutely need a copy of this novel, see me before the summer break. Be prepared to discuss and write about this excellent novel before we meet in August. Again, you probably shouldn't begin reading this book until a week before classes resume, so that the book remains fresh in your minds.**

For those of you feeling particularly ambitious, trainers at the College Board highly recommend students purchase, *Cliff Notes' AP English Literature and composition 3rd Editions* by Allan Casson Ph.D. This is an excellent resource for preparing for the rigors of this exam. You should definitely practice on your own using this resource throughout your senior year.

Furthermore, know that I am available starting today, via in person, email, phone or text to help you learn any of the aforementioned vocabulary, literary terms or discuss the novel. 303 815-0269

Finally, now is the perfect time to **start setting money aside for the AP examination which is 95 dollars. Checks should be made out to LHS. Have at least 45 dollars paid off on or before we meet for our first class in August. The full amount due should be paid by October 1st and should go directly to the bookkeeper. I want very much for each and every one of you to receive a high, weighted grade for your**

efforts as well as the opportunity to save money in the long run by earning college credit. Never let money get in the way of you taking this test, as Mrs. Zerr and the College Board can help you with payment.

I wish you all a thoughtful and restful summer. I recognize that the real knowledge in our classroom is among all of you. I am simply here to help you draw out this knowledge and your experiences so that learning can be optimized for all of us. **Know that I have strategically designed this course with you in mind. It is designed to be an engaging and participative experience.** It is one where you will be challenged to open your hearts, minds, ears and mouths. **I am 100% committed to each and every one of you. I will always be on time and fully prepared to give you my very best.** In return, I ask that you be consistently prepared, present and participate. If you do, I confidently promise you this: It will be worth it and you will not want to miss a thing.

Sincerely,
Mr. Thom

Important Things

- Mastery of vocabulary words before the semester begins.
- Mastery of Literary Terms before the semester begins.
- Read and be prepared to discuss and be assessed on *When the Emperor was Divine* by Julie Otsuka before we first meet.
- www.half.com is an ideal site to order inexpensive copies of your required texts. Visit used bookstores as well.
- 45 or 95 dollars due by the first day of class. Checks made out to LHS. Pay the bookkeeper!
- Full Amount of AP testing fee due October 1st.

Mr. Thom

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