Summer Reading List
AP Literature 2015-2016

Contact information:
All assignments and information are posted electronically on the blog: http://mrgiorgi.blogspot.com and the teacher site (https://sites.google.com/a/nhsd.org/nhsgiorgi/). I can also be reached by email: agiorgi@nhsd.org, agiorgi@live.com (in case there is problem with school email)

Required Books—your responsibility
You should read each of the following five (5) books during summer break. You should take notes on each in a journal, on note cards, or in a computer file you can easily reference when you return to school.

Read the Thomas Foster book first
For this book make notes on each chapter as he always gives you something to look for.

Read the novels in any order you like
For each of the five novels, it is suggested that you keep a record of the following using the attached Sample Reading Summer Sheet:

- Basic plot points
- Main characters and brief description of each
- Important symbols and explanations
- At least two important themes from each book with appropriate commentary on each
- Any additional information that will help you in class.

Required Writing—your responsibility
Write your College Essay (50 points)
From the Common App: "Please write an essay (250 words minimum) on a topic of your choice or on one of the options listed below, and attach it to your application before submission. Please indicate your topic by checking the appropriate box. This personal essay helps us become acquainted with you as a person and student, apart from courses, grades, test scores, and other objective data. It will also demonstrate your ability to organize your thoughts and express yourself." I will collect this essay during the first week of school.

1. 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.
2. 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?
3. Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?
4. 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.
5. Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.
6. If you are applying to a school that does not accept the Common App prompts or has its own special prompt, please feel free to write and submit that essay for review.

When you return to school: There will be a comprehensive assessment when you return, including a 50-question multiple choice exam related to the 5 required books as well as essays and classwork on each of the books. The first 4-5 weeks will depend on the summer reading. Be ready on day one. No, I will not be collecting your notes, but will be checking your sheets for study sheets for completion.

How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas C. Foster
Hate symbols? Haven't read the Bible? Can't recognize a poetic form when you see one? Think water is just something you swim in? Think your English teacher is constantly making stuff up in class? Well, read Thomas Foster's book on the art of reading and it will change the way you will read forever...and make the course one of the most enjoyable experiences ever.

White Tiger by Aravind Adiga
Winner of the Man Booker Prize and written by a former Financial Times writer from Mumbai who has a bird's eye view of both globalization and daily life for the majority of Indians, this is perhaps the most penetrating look at modern India yet offered by a contemporary novelist. Framed as a series of letters by Balram to Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China, this novel also looks at the relationship between the rising powers of India and China and a vision of the future. This book connects to The Reluctant Fundamentalist by Mohsin Hamid.
**The Zone of Interest** by Martin Amis

The *Zone of Interest*, published in 2014, is set in Auschwitz, it tells the story of a Nazi officer who has become enamored with the camp commandant’s wife. This is a satire and a penetrating exploration of the horrors that took place during the Holocaust. (Although set in Auschwitz, the camp is never referred to as Auschwitz; Hitler is also never named directly in the book). There are three narrators: Angelus Thomsen (fictional officer in love with Hannah Doll), Paul Doll (who is running the camp in the novel based on Rudolph Höss who ran Auschwitz), and Szmul (a Jewish Sonderkommando who works in the camp helping to exterminate his own people). This has been called Amis’s best book in 25 years and is part of a group of recently released novels looking at Hitler and Nazi Germany from different perspectives. His previous novel on the Holocaust *Time’s Arrow* was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and he has won the National Book Critics Circle Award, James Tait Memorial Award, Somerset Maugham Award.

**Missing Person** by Patrick Modiano

From 2014 Nobel Prize winner, Patrick Modiano, comes a novel about a man in pursuit of the identity he lost in the murky days of the Paris Occupation, the black hole of French memory. Guy Roland is a private detective who has lived without a past for 10 years. When his employer closes up his detective practice, he leaves Guy with all the material he needs to set about on a journey to find out who he was and to remember what he lost. This novel was awarded the Prix Goncourt, France’s highest literary honor.

**The Good Luck of Right Now** by Matthew Quick

From Matthew Quick, the New York Times bestselling author of *The Silver Linings Playbook*, comes *The Good Luck of Right Now*, a funny and tender story about family, friendship, grief, acceptance, and Richard Gere—an entertaining and inspiring tale that will leave you pondering the rhythms of the universe and marveling at the power of kindness and love. The book is being adapted into a movie.

**The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind** by Bryan Mealer and William Kamkwamba

William Kamkwamba was born in Malawi, a country where magic ruled and modern science was mystery. It was also a land withered by drought and hunger. But William had read about windmills, and he dreamed of building one that would bring to his small village a set of luxuries that only 2 percent of Malawians could enjoy: electricity and running water. His neighbors called him misala—crazy—but William refused to let go of his dreams. With a small pile of once-forgotten science textbooks; some scrap metal, tractor parts, and bicycle halves; and an armory of curiosity and determination, he embarked on a daring plan to forge an unlikely contraption and small miracle that would change the lives around him.

This book is the One School, One Book selection of the 2014-2015 academic year. Bryan Mealer will be speaking at the school in the fall of 2015. You are invited to read this book, but will not be tested on it.
Suggested Books for Self Selected Reading

Codes: "Blank"= reasonable; "SS"=short and sweet; "C"=challenging; "RC"=Really Challenging; "L"=Long; "RL"=Really Long

- My Antonia by Willa Cather
- Ethan Frome, Age of Innocence, Edith Wharton
- Beloved, Song of Solomon, Toni Morrison
- Bellefleur, We were the Mulvaneys by Joyce Carol Oates
- Mile Zero, The Zoot Suit Murders, Thomas Sanchez
- A Thousand Acres, Age of Grief, Jane Smiley
- Point Omega (F), Running Dog, Players, Libra (JFK), Mao II, Underworld (LC), The Body Artist (SC), Don DeLillo
- House on Mango Street (SS), Sandra Cisneros
- In the Time of the Butterflies (H), Julia Alvarez
- The Sweet Hereafter, Continental Drift, Affliction, Rule of the Bone, Russell Banks
- The Old Man Who Read Love Stories (SS), Luis Sepulveda
- Midnight's Children, Salman Rushdie
- The Crying of Lot 49 (SS), Gravity's Rainbow (RLRC), Thomas Pynchon
- Turn of the Screw (SS), Daisy Miller (SS), What Maisie Knew (C), Henry James
- As I Lay Dying (C), Absalom Absalom!! (C), The Sound & The Fury (C), William Faulkner
- Dubliners (SS), Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, Ulysses (RLRC), James Joyce
- The Eye, Pale Fire (RC), Vladimir Nabokov
- Death of a Salesman, All My Sons, Crucible, Arthur Miller
- Flaubert's Parrot, Arthur and George, A Sense of Ending, Julian Barnes
- The Marrow of Tradition, Charles Chesnutt
- The Robber Bride, Wilderness Tips, Margaret Atwood
- Oliver Twist, A Tale of Two Cities, Charles Dickens
- Wuthering Heights, Emily Bronte
- Jane Eyre, Charlotte Bronte
- The Cider House Rules, The World According to Garp, John Irving
- Pride & Prejudice, Sense & Sensibility, Persuasion, Jane Austen
- The Rise of Silas Lapham, William Dean Howells
- Huckleberry Finn, A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court, Pudd'nhead Wilson, Mark Twain
- Sister Carrie (L), Theodore Dreiser
- Their Eyes Were Watching God, Zora Neale Hurston
- McTeague, Frank Norris
- The Country of the Pointed Firs, Sarah Orne Jewett
- Moby Dick (LC), Herman Melville
- A Farewell to Arms, For Whom the Bell Tolls, The First 49 Short Stories, To Have and Have Not, The Garden of Eden, Ernest Hemingway
- Where I'm Calling From, Cathedral, Raymond Carver
- Nostromo (LC), Lord Jim by Joseph Conrad
- The Metamorphosis, Kafka
- The Great Gatsby, This Side of Paradise, F. Scott Fitzgerald
- Waiting for the Barbarians, J.M. Coetzee
- Anna Karenina (LC), Leo Tolstoy
- The Recognitions (RLRC), A Frolic of His Own (RLRC), William Gaddis
- A Picture of Dorian Gray, Oscar Wilde
- The Brothers Karamazov (L), Fyodor Dostoyevsky
- Sons and Lovers, D.H. Lawrence
- To The Lighthouse, Between the Acts, Virginia Woolf
- The English Patient, Michael Ondaatje
- House of Meetings, Time's Arrow, Money, The Information, Heavy Water and Other Stories, Martin Amis
- Straight Man, Richard Russo
- The Millstone, Margaret Drabble
- The Bonfire of the Vanities, Thomas Wolfe
- The Silver Linings Playbook, Matt Quick
- Mary & O'Neil, The Summer Guest, Justin Cronin
- Hygiene and the Assassin, The Character of Rain, Amelie Nothomb
- Kafka on the Shore, 1Q84 (RLRC), The Wind-up Bird Chronicle (RLRC), Norwegian Wood, Haruki Murakami
- The Magus, The French Lieutenant's Woman, John Fowles
- The Art of Fielding, Chad Harbach
Sample Summer Reading Study Sheet
List page numbers with your notes for easy reference during class

Basic Plot Points
1. Setup:
2. Complication:
3. Further Complication:
4. Twist:
5. Conclusion:

Main Character(s) (Protagonist, Antagonist)
Name:
Description:
Key challenges and decisions:

 Minor Character(s) (Love Interests, sidekicks, subordinates)
Name:
Description:
Key challenges and decisions
Name:
Description:
Key challenges and decisions

Important Theme #1

Important Theme #2

Additional Information that is helpful in understanding this book:

Questions you have about this book: