

## I. Novel of Choice

1. You are expected to read one book from the book list below during the summer and be ready to discuss it in detail during the first weeks of class. Brief descriptions of the books are on the back of this sheet, and we encourage you to look at additional book reviews before making your choice. You are expected to annotate the novel, so we encourage you to purchase your own copy.
2. Choices:  

<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>	Zora Neale Hurston
<i>In the Time of the Butterflies</i>	Julia Alvarez
<i>The God of Small Things</i>	Arundhati Roy
3. While you are reading, annotate the text. We are not looking for one specific style of annotation. We want to see what you do naturally as you read. If annotating is not natural to you, we want you to give it a try. **NOTE:** Study guides (such as CliffsNotes and SparkNotes) may **NEVER** be used as a substitute for the reading assigned *or as a resource*. These sources are often incomplete and sometimes flat-out wrong. When consultation of outside sources is necessary, use reliable, scholarly sources and literary criticism. The Tiger Library databases are available to you during the summer for just such occasions.

## II. Written Response

1. Write a two to three page response/commentary on the novel you chose to read in which you consider the relationship between the men and women in the novel. What are the author's assertions about relationships between men and women and how do these assertions contribute to the meaning of the novel as a whole?
2. The expectations for the written response are that it should be typed, double-spaced, in 12 point Times New Roman font, and exhibit mastery of MLA style, including parenthetical citations and a works cited page. Additionally, responses should demonstrate adequate control of grammar, mechanics, and composition elements. Remember to support all of your comments and arguments by referring specifically to the text and using passages from the novel wherever appropriate.

## III. Assignment Submission

1. *Bring your written response to class the second day of school.* All summer reading essays are required to be submitted to Turnitin.com. You'll receive directions for submission on the first day of school.

## IV. A Helpful Guide

1. Buy a copy of Thomas C. Foster's book *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, 2nd ed.. We will start working with this book within the first couple of weeks of school. It will basically be our textbook for the first semester. You don't need to read it yet, but you need to acquire a copy.

***How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines***  
**Thomas C. Foster**

What does it mean when a fictional hero takes a journey? Shares a meal? Gets drenched in a sudden rain shower? Often, there is much more going on in a novel or poem than is readily visible on the surface—a symbol, maybe, that remains elusive, or an unexpected twist on a character—and there's that sneaking suspicion that the deeper meaning of a literary text keeps escaping you.

In this practical and amusing guide to literature, Thomas C. Foster shows how easy and gratifying it is to unlock those hidden truths, and to discover a world where a road leads to a quest; a shared meal may signify a communion; and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just rain. Ranging from major themes to literary models, narrative devices, and form, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* is the perfect companion for making your reading experience more enriching, satisfying, and fun.

***Their Eyes Were Watching God***      **Zora Neale Hurston**

Initially published in 1937, this novel about a proud, independent black woman's quest for identity, a journey that takes her through three marriages and back to her roots, has been one of the most widely read and highly acclaimed novels in the canon of African-American literature. In reference to this novel, revered novelist Alice Walker states, "There is no book more important to me than this one."

***In the Time of the Butterflies***      **Julia Alvarez**

Julia Alvarez's eagerly awaited second novel is a powerful story of courage, innocence, and political martyrdom in the Hispanic Caribbean. Based on actual events--the death of three sisters on November 25, 1960--the novel immerses us in an epoch in the life of the Dominican Republic. The "Butterflies," as they were known, lived daringly and dangerously under a regime that imprisoned, tortured, and killed with impunity.

***The God of Small Things***      **Arundhati Roy**

Here, perhaps, is the greatest Indian novel by a woman. Arundhati Roy has written an astonishingly rich, fertile novel, teeming with life, colour, heart-stopping language, wry comedy and a hint of magical realism. Set against a background of political turbulence in Kerala, Southern India, 'The God of Small Things' tells the story of twins Esthappen and Rahel. Among the vats of banana jam and heaps of peppercorns in their grandmother's factory, they try to craft a childhood for themselves amidst what constitutes their family -- their lonely, lovely mother, their beloved Uncle Chacko (pickle-baron and radical Marxist) and their avowed enemy; Baby Kochamma (ex-nun and incumbent grand-aunt).

**MLA Heading Format**

Student Name

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AP English IV-?

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