

M. Chyla
AP English Literature
Summer Assignment~June 2025

Welcome to twelfth grade Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition. You have embarked on a noble endeavor to challenge yourself into a college level course. Its rigor will be demanding and rewarding. As such, we begin with an introductory assignment, which will provide you with the necessary background and preparation for the expectations of the course. You will read two books. One is a novel. The other will help you understand how to read novels.

Thomas Foster says, “Basically, we’ve all read the same story, but we haven’t used the same analytical apparatus”. For the first part of your assignment, we will be reading chapters from Foster’s book, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, which will help us recognize patterns that continually occur in literature to prepare us to become professional readers. The goal is to become more adept at recognizing commonalities in literary works that we will study this year.

For the second part of the assignment, you will read and analyze *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah.

Thirdly, you will be studying the Nuts & Bolts of the AP Classroom, which is a collection of literary terms for you to look up definitions and examples to be used throughout the school year.

Google Classroom Code: Please join as soon as possible: [2bie3moi](#)

****All assignments are due: Friday, September 5, 2025! ****

******Late summer assignments will not be accepted. Whether you are in class or absent that day, the assignments are still due on Friday, September 5th.******

Grade Distribution of Summer Assignment work:

- Thomas Foster Dialectical Journals (50 points test grade)
- *The Nightingale* timed on demand in class essay using Thomas Foster notes and based on *The Nightingale* notes (100 points essay grade)
- Nuts & Bolts literary & poetic term quiz upon return to school based on definitions and examples (100 quiz grade)

Part 1: Thomas Foster reading

It is one thing to read a guide to literature on its own and a completely other thing to read a guide to literature and apply that information to it at the same time. Therefore, as we read this book, we are going to use the techniques to examine our works throughout the year.

Throughout his book, Foster mentions dozens of authors and literary works. If you haven't read them, *don't worry!* I've not even read all of them. He uses them to explain why his points are valid and how his points can be used to analyze literature. Don't focus on the work you don't know, but focus on the information he gives about the text and how he uses it.

Chapters to read from the **Revised Edition** of Foster's *How to Read Literature Like A Professor*:

Introduction

Chapter 1: Every Trip is a Quest

2: Nice to Eat with You: Acts of Communion

4: Now, Where Have I Seen Her Before?

5: When In Doubt, It's From Shakespeare...

6: ...Or the Bible

7: Hanseldee and Greteldum

8: It's Greek to Me

9: It's More than Just Rain or Snow

12: Is That a Symbol?

14: Yes, She's a Christ Figure, Too

18: If She Comes Up, It's Baptism

19: Geography Matters

20: So Does Season

Interlude: One Story

23: It's Never Just Heart Disease...and Rarely Just Illness

24: Don't Read with Your Eyes

26: Is He Serious? And Other Ironies

***Assignment #1: Thomas Foster Dialectical Journals:**

*You are responsible for **reading 18 chapters**. (Feel free to read the rest too-other chapters will be assigned throughout the year). Create a **handwritten** dialectical journal to use with your in class writing throughout the year-a visible record of the thoughts that emerge while making sense of the reading. A typical dialectical journal/notebook records a quote, phrase, or word with a page number on the left hand side of a paper and in the second column on the right, record your reactions and interpretations. So, information on the left, your analysis/interpretation/thoughts on the right. You will need to refer to these notes throughout the year, so keep it organized! If you do not create handwritten notes, you will not have them for the ***first in class on demand essay given the first week of school*** or for use when writing future essays. **No typed notes allowed.**

Dialectical Journals Rubric:

Check plus plus (50/50)	Check plus (45/50)	Check (40/50)	Check minus (35/50)	Incomplete (0-25/50)
-At least 18 quotes/moments in the text are explored -Analysis is critical and insightful -Responses are well rounded and avoid redundancy	-At least 18 quotes/moments in the text are explored -Analysis is interesting and insightful points are emerging -Responses are well rounded	-At least 15 quotes/moments in the text are explored -Focus is clear, but responses may be slightly underdeveloped or missing detail -Responses may be repetitive in points of exploration	-At least 13 quotes/moments in the text are explored -Excerpts from the text may not fully explore each chapter -Analysis is underdeveloped and lacks depth	Assignment is only partially completed.

Part 2 : The Nightingale:

The Nightingale: With courage, grace, and powerful insight, bestselling author Kristin Hannah captures the epic panorama of World War II and illuminates an intimate part of history seldom seen: the women's war. *The Nightingale* tells the stories of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France—a heartbreakingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women. It is a novel for everyone, a novel for a lifetime.

***Assignment #2: Personal note-taking for an on demand essay:**

*You are responsible for reading this novel and taking your own notes. Suggestions for note-taking: Double Entry Journals or Cornell method notes including: title, author, publication date of work and genre, setting, brief plot synopsis (include climax), characters, theme, conflicts, major symbols, allusions, and other important literary elements or distinguishing characteristics of the work. Whatever method of note-taking you use, these will be a resource to prepare for one of your first essays. No typed notes allowed. These notes will not be used as you are writing *The Nightingale* essay, but as a way to review and prepare.

Part 3 : The Nuts & Bolts:

Before we dive into the rich world of literature, it's important to understand the *Nuts and Bolts* — the essential literary and poetic terms that help us break down, analyze, and truly appreciate what we read. Think of these tools as the vocabulary of literary analysis: from metaphor and tone to syntax and diction, these terms will be your foundation for thoughtful reading and powerful writing. Master them now, and you'll be well on your way to becoming a confident, insightful reader and writer.

***Assignment #3: Definitions and examples in preparation for a quiz:**

*On separate pieces of looseleaf, please follow the directions on the [Nuts and Bolts handout](#) where you will see to ‘*Define the following*’ or to simply ‘*Read through; define as needed for yourself*’ for each term. No typed notes allowed. This work will prepare you for a literary and poetic term quiz upon return to school.