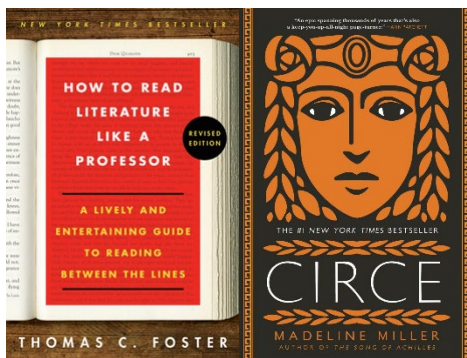


## AP English Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignment

I am excited that you have decided to take AP English Literature and Composition this upcoming year. This course focuses on reading, analyzing, and writing about literature from various periods. We will focus on understanding how authors use language to build meaning within their works. Advanced Placement Literature and Composition is considered an entry-level college course and as such, the course will provide you with the intellectual challenges and workload commensurate with a typical undergraduate English literature course. The course itself is built on the premise that the more you read, the more you learn about language, about writing, about storytelling and, frankly, about life. This assignment is designed to help you read with purpose and deepen your understanding of literary analysis.

Take copious and meaningful notes as you read. You may do so in any way you learn best (post-its, annotations directly in the book, loose-leaf notes, etc.) In order to truly understand a text, you must remain an active and critical reader; this skill is developed when you maintain a constant dialogue with an author or poet as you're reading. Keep analyzing the author's craft by asking why the writer made the decisions he/she made. When reading the novel, take notes on point of view, character complexity, conflict, theme, setting, symbols, etc. Please have the assignment completed by the end of the first week of school, as we will be working with both Foster's piece and the novel to assess and build your analytical skills.



### **Part I:** *How to Read Literature like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster (ISBN: 9780062301673)

This text will function as a preface for our study of literature throughout the academic year. You are required to read the chapters listed below but encouraged to read the text in its entirety. We will refer to *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* all year, so you should try to obtain your own copy.

Chapter 1: Every Trip is a Quest (Except When It's Not)

Chapter 3: Nice to Eat with You: Acts of Communion

Chapter 9: It's All Greek to Me

Chapter 10: Never Stand next to the Hero

Chapter 12: Is That a Symbol?

Chapter 19: Geography Matters

Chapter 21: Marked for Greatness

**Part II:** Read *Circe* by Madeline Miller (ISBN: 978-0316556323).

“In the house of Helios, god of the sun and mightiest of the Titans, a daughter is born. But Circe is a strange child -- not powerful, like her father, nor viciously alluring, like her mother. Turning to the world of mortals for companionship, she discovers that she does possess power -- the power of witchcraft, which can transform rivals into monsters and menace the gods themselves. Threatened, Zeus banishes her to a deserted island, where she hones her occult craft, tames wild beasts and crosses paths with many of the most famous figures in all of mythology, including the Minotaur, Daedalus and his doomed son Icarus, the murderous Medea, and, of course, wily Odysseus. But there is danger, too, for a woman who stands alone, and Circe unwittingly draws the wrath of both men and gods, ultimately finding herself pitted against one of the most terrifying and vengeful of the Olympians. To protect what she loves most, Circe must summon all her strength and choose, once and for all, whether she belongs with the gods she is born from, or the mortals she has come to love.

With unforgettably vivid characters, mesmerizing language, and page-turning suspense, *Circe* is a triumph of storytelling, an intoxicating epic of family rivalry, palace intrigue, love and loss, as well as a celebration of indomitable female strength in a man's world.”

(Amazon description)

\*Note about content: This novel is based on Greek mythology, which does contain violence, bloodshed, and unfairness; however, the book as a whole is written in good taste.

**Part III:** Writing Assignment for *Circe* – do not consult any outside sources please.

Choose **at least three assigned chapters** from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster and apply the ideas from each chapter to the novel *Circe*. For each chapter you choose, write **analysis** explaining how Foster's concepts connect to *Circe*. Your writing should clearly show how the novel illustrates or supports the ideas discussed in Foster's chapter. At the beginning of each paragraph, please **clearly identify Foster chapter** you are using.

**How to write the analyses:** For each Foster chapter you selected, choose a specific passage from *Circe* that strongly demonstrates the ideas from that chapter.

- Each passage must be at least **two paragraphs** long.
- Include the full quoted passage **before** your analysis.
- Cite the passage using **MLA format** (look this up if needed).
- For each passage, write a brief analysis (**one to two paragraphs**) explaining how the passage illustrates Foster's ideas. These well-written analyses should clearly demonstrate a strong understanding of the concept by closely examining specific words, phrases, or moments in the text. You should focus on relevant literary elements such as character, setting, theme, tone, plot devices, symbolism, etc.

Superior writing will be specific in references, clear, logical, and convincing in the explications, and free of plot summary that is not relevant to the topic.

\*Note about organization and order. Each piece should have the title of Foster's chapter followed by the passage from the novel, followed by the passage analysis.

**You will submit this assignment, written in MLA format, including the Works Cited page, to Turnitin.com on the first day of school. Please be aware that Turnitin.com identifies AI content as well as other matches. Your work should be your own.**

You can also expect an assessment on *Circe* in the first week of school, so read this novel in its entirety (annotations are super helpful).