

Bishop Kearney High School  
AP Literature  
Summer Reading 2017

Welcome to AP Literature! This course is focused on the close reading of literary texts for analysis and critique. In this class, you will hone your reading and writing skills by experiencing and examining a wide variety of literary styles. Over the summer, in preparation for the class, you are to complete the following reading and assignments listed below. **I recommend reading them in the order they are listed.**

1) *How To Read Literature Like A Professor*, by 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. (amazon.com)

2) *Jane Eyre*, by Charlotte Bronte

*Jane Eyre*, the story of a young girl and her passage into adulthood, was an immediate commercial success at the time of its original publication in 1847. Its representation of the underside of domestic life and the hypocrisy behind religious enthusiasm drew both praise and bitter criticism, while Charlotte Brontë's striking expose of poor living conditions for children in charity schools as well as her poignant portrayal of the limitations faced by women who worked as governesses sparked great controversy and social debate. (amazon.com)

3) *Wide Sargasso Sea*, by Jean Rhys

Jean Rhys's reputation was made upon the publication of this passionate and heartbreaking novel, in which she brings into the light one of fiction's most mysterious characters: the madwoman in the attic from Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*. Set in the Caribbean, its heroine is Antoinette Cosway, a sensual and protected young woman who is sold into marriage to the prideful Rochester. In this best-selling novel, Rhys portrays a society so driven by hatred, so skewed in its relations, that it can literally drive a woman out of her mind. (amazon.com)

**Assignment: Be prepared to write about these two novels during the first week of classes.**

