

## AP English Language and Composition Summer Reading 2017

There are two parts to the AP English Language and Composition summer reading assignment:

**Part One:** You must read the assigned chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster, and then apply what you have learned from this text as you read the following from *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien:

“The Things They Carried” pages 1 – 25

“On the Rainy River” pages 37 – 58

“Sweetheart of the Song Tra Bong” pages 85 - 110

*It is expected that all parts of the assignment will meet the requirements of MLA format.*

**Part One and Part Two are due on the first day of school.** You will be required to turn in a digital copy of this assignment as well as a hard copy. Be sure to save your work so that it can be easily accessed (i.e. Dropbox, flash drive, etc.)

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### Part One – Part A: The Text

**Read and Annotate the** Intro and chapters 5, 7, 11, 12, and 13 in *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*; then relate these chapters to the novel excerpts you read this summer. (See instructions below.)

### Phase One – Part B: The Novel

I. Read the assigned novel excerpts.

II. While reading each novel, you should be annotating, marking the novel, and recording page numbers of specific scenes or quotes that you find meaningful or interesting.

III. When you have finished, refer back to *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. For four (4) of the chapters you read in *HTRLLAP*, find an example from one of the assigned novels and explain how the author uses this writing technique. This should be multiple paragraphs. Quotes from **both** texts (*HTRLLAP* excerpts and the *TTTC* excerpts) are to be used to support any statements. Specific instructions for this assignment can be found on the back of this sheet.

\*\*\*In the first few days of class, you will be required to participate in a Socratic seminar and your knowledge of the novel excerpts will be assessed with a detailed test.\*\*\*

## Synthesize Part One: A and B

Relating *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster to *The Things They Carried* excerpts.

*Directions: Using quotations from both texts, answer the prompt for four of the seven chapters listed below. This should be a well-written discussion (i.e. multiple paragraphs) of the message Foster is expressing in **How to Read Literature Like a Professor** and the message O'Brien is expressing in his novel excerpts. Be prepared to turn this assignment in the first day of school.*

**1. How'd He Do That? (Introduction):** — “**Memory. Symbol. Pattern. These are the three items that, more than any other, separate the professorial reader from the rest of the crowd**” (Foster xv)

How do memory, symbol, and pattern affect the reading of literature? How does the recognition of patterns make it easier to read complicated literature? Discuss a time when your appreciation of a literary work was enhanced by understanding symbol or pattern.

**2. Now Where Have I Seen Her Before? (Chapter Five):** — “**As you read, it may pay to remember this: there's no such thing as a wholly original work of literature**” (Foster 29).

Define intertextuality. Discuss three examples that have helped you in reading the summer reading texts.

**3. ...Or the Bible (Chapter Seven):** — “**Innocence, then its loss. What more do you need?**” (Foster 50).

Discuss any biblical allusions you notice in the text(s). How do these allusions illuminate the work(s)?

**4. More Than it's Gonna Hurt You: Concerning Violence (Chapter Eleven):** — “**Violence is one of the most personal and even intimate acts between human beings, but it can also be cultural and societal in its implication**” (Foster 88).

Present examples of the two kinds of violence found in literature. Show how the effects are different.

**5. Is That a Symbol? (Chapter Twelve):** — “**Is that a symbol? Sure, why not**” (Foster 97).

Use the process described on page 106 and investigate the symbolism found in the text(s).

**6. It's All Political (Chapter Thirteen):** — “**...the role of the individual is always politically charged...**” (Foster 111).

Assume Foster is right and “it is all political.” Use his criteria to show that one of the summer reading texts is political.