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### Summer Reading Assignment Part I: *How to read Literature Like a Professor*

AP Literature and Composition will challenge your close reading skills as you strive to answer the following question: **How do you know what you know?** In order to demystify how an author creates thematic meaning—not just for your summer reading, but also for your work next year-- your assignment is **to read *How To Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster**. The ISBN number is 9780062301673. Note that this edition is a revised edition. You may purchase the book or check it out from the public library. You can even find it online.

- Record one “take-away” from each chapter. What did you get out of the chapter?

### Summer Reading Assignment Part II: “A Hunger Artist”

Once you have read the above book, print “A Hunger Artist” by Franz Kafka.

- **Read and annotate the story.**
- Apply the knowledge you gain from reading *How To Read Literature Like a Professor* to the piece.
- At the end of the short story, **write a theme statement that speaks to the author’s comment about the human condition.**

Theme is NOT a moral that gives an order regarding how to live. (i.e. Never lie.) Theme includes author attitude and the comment about the human condition. **In *The Great Gatsby*, Fitzgerald warns that the American dream is just that: an intangible, false promise that perpetuates immaturity and seduces individuals to fall victim to immorality, greed and selfishness—often with great consequence.**

### Summer Reading Assignment Part III: Poetry

**Print, read and annotate the following poems** which are widely available online. Don’t rush.

- Read and re-read.
- In your annotations, consider such poetic devices as connotation, imagery, diction and details.
- For each poem, **write a theme statement that speaks to the author’s comment about the human condition.** Remember, theme is NOT a moral that gives an order regarding how to live. (i.e. Always be kind.) See above for the sample theme statement that contains an author’s attitude as well as the comment about the human condition.

“Evening Hawk” (Robert Penn Warren)

“Ode on a Grecian Urn” (John Keats)

“The Century Quilt” (Marilyn Nelson Wamiek)

“The Sick Rose” (William Blake)

“Blackberry Picking” (Seamus Heaney)

“The Myth of Music” (Rachel M. Harper)

### Minimize Stress at the Beginning of the Year

Work on your college applications; be reasonable in the number of colleges to which you apply. Consider a couple of “reach” schools, a couple of “likely” schools, and at least one “safety” school. Research. Visit. Know whether or not you need a college essay. If you need a college essay, begin to think about possible topics for your essay. Focus on single moments in time as opposed to telling your entire life story. (Most of you will need to write more than one essay. . . yay!)