



Palm Harbor University High School
International Baccalaureate Language Arts
2017-18 School Year
Reading List and Summer Assignment

9th Grade Pre-IB English Literature
Instructors – J. Tharin, J. Vesey

*We pressed a thought into the wayside,
planted an impression along the verge.*
- from "Marginalia" by Billy Collins

Summer Assignment

The Alchemist, Paolo Coelho

HarperCollins Publishers, ISBN-13: 9780062315007

How to Read Literature Like a Professor, Thomas C. Foster

HarperCollins Publishers, ISBN-13: 9780062326522

You will need these works for class during the first few weeks of school, and I will be checking your annotations for a grade. On the first or second session of school, students should be prepared to demonstrate their knowledge of these texts by writing either an essay or taking a quote-based test.

Overview:

This looks like more work than it is. The novel is short and engaging. You may choose poems you enjoy from the website provided. Your responses should only be a paragraph each. Over the summer you are expected to complete the following for a grade, the assignments are detailed below:

1. Read and annotate the 2 required texts.
2. Complete 5 journal entries for **The Alchemist**.
3. Complete 5 journal entries for the Poetry Assignment.

Annotating:

First with ***How to Read Literature Like a Professor***, and then with ***The Alchemist***, you will need to carefully read through and annotate by noting pithy quotations, important moments, and literary details. See

<http://www.slowreads.com/ResourcesHowToMarkABook.htm>: this is an internet source for ideas on what to annotate.

Do the following:

- Mark things that you like, that puzzle you, that disturb you, that resonate with you.
- Look up words you do not know and write the definitions in the margin.
- Mark any literary devices you are familiar with and any patterns of ideas or images.
- In *The Alchemist*, mark connections to *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*
- Jot notes and questions in the margin.
- Talk back to the text by giving your emotional or critical responses.
- Please don't forget to enjoy the book.

Writing Expectations

As this is a literature and composition course, you will be expected to use every assignment that involves writing to practice your best composition skills. For your journal entries you will be responding in paragraph form and be graded on the following criteria.

Stand-Alone Paragraph Evaluation Criteria:

1. The first sentence contains the assertion and key words from the question or assigned topic.
2. Paragraph contains two to four explanatory sentences.
3. Paragraph contains three to five sentences about specific details (things in quotation marks).
4. Details are colorful, interesting, and appropriate.

5. Paragraph ends with a good concluding sentence that refers to the assertion without repeating it.
6. Paragraph contains no run-ons or sentence fragments.
7. Paragraph is free of errors in agreement.
 - A. Subject/verb—singular or plural
 - B. Pronoun selection correct—singular or plural
 - C. Pronoun selection correct—subject or object

The Alchemist Journal Assignments:

1. The first entry should be about you—nothing fancy, just an overview: your likes, dislikes, fears, hopes, ambitions, favorite books, study habits, work ethic, and goals. Be specific—specific is interesting. We will be sharing these in class, so don't share anything you are not comfortable sharing.
2. Review Chapter 1 from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* and list the 5 aspects of the Quest and apply them to *The Alchemist*. Prove to me that Santiago is, in fact, on a quest and use specific details from the text to support your assertion.
3. Choose one of the following expressions to explain, using specific evidence from the text: "The Soul of the World," "The Unspoken Language," or "Personal Legend."
4. Review Chapters 5, 7, & 9 from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* and define intertextuality. Give three examples from *The Alchemist* and discuss their significance.
5. Review Chapter 19 from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* and discuss what the geography in the novel contributes to theme. Theme is a statement about how the author treats the subject. An example for *The Alchemist* might be: "Fear of failure often keeps people from pursuing their personal legend."

Poetry Assignment Requirements:

- Choose poems that you like from the Poetry 180 website: <http://www.loc.gov/poetry/180/>. As you read the poems, answer as many of the following questions as you can about reading poetry. For all of the following use specific details to support your answers.
- What is the literal situation of the poem?
- Who is the speaker?
- What piece of life, private or public, is the poem concerned with? Be specific.
- Where and when is this life being lived?
- What kind of image patterns have you found? How do they affect meaning?
- What is the tone? How do you know?
- Where is the shift in tone? How does it affect meaning?
- What is the major theme of the poem?
- What is the significance of the title?
- What is the poet's purpose in writing it?

Steps:

1. Read my paragraph on poem #1 below. This will give you an idea of the types of things that I am looking for in your paragraphs.
2. Choose poems from the website which you enjoy and which you feel comfortable talking about in class, you are by no means required to analyze a poem that you are uncomfortable with.
3. Complete at least 5 journal entries, one per poem.
4. In the title of your journal entry indicate which poem (the number) you are writing about, along with the title and poet. Example: #1 "Introduction to Poetry" Billy Collins
5. Answer or respond to some of the questions provided above in paragraph form.

Literary Terms:

We will be dealing with them for poetry, prose, and drama. If you are not familiar with the following, I suggest you look them up online and also try and find them in your summer readings (these are wonderful for annotating and for analyzing in poems). These terms would also be appropriate to use in your journal entries. The terms are as follows: **metaphor, simile, mood, setting, allusion, tone, point of view, foreshadowing, personification, irony, symbol, hyperbole, understatement, flashback, and imagery.**

Example Paragraphs:

Mr. Tharin: *The Alchemist* Journal 1

Before my training as a wizard, I was in the first graduating class from the Palm Harbor University High School IB program...a long, long time ago, when I thought I was cool wearing corduroys with Hawaiian shirts and boots with fire on them. I attended the University of Florida and earned degrees in both Business Management and English; Business because my parents assured me that I could do nothing but teach with an English degree, and English to keep my soul alive. I spent 3 1/2 years in the Peace Corps in Guatemala, where I learned both Spanish and a Mayan language called Kekchi. I'm married and have two daughters, Julieta and Lorelei. What do I like? I like specific details, double-stuffed Oreos, traveling, spicy food, tennis, quiet people, and video games. I enjoy almost all types of music (especially punk and reggae), though I can't stand country and gangster rap. I enjoy a good challenge, a good book (especially science fiction), and people with a good sense of humor. I don't particularly like loud people, pictures of cats, comedy (in the modern sense: it usually hinges on racism, sexism, or some other ism, and I enjoy celebrating the differences between individuals rather than belittling them), milk, writing in pencil (left-handed people understand), late work, and excuses. I don't fear much, but when I do, I fear being bored. I hope to teach an exciting and challenging English class for all of you, and to become immortal (I've read that the secret is beets and baths). I procrastinated when I was a student, but did so efficiently. My goals entail always doing the best I can with whatever I'm doing, and always being as brave as I want to be.

Poetry Journal Entry: #1 "Introduction to Poetry" Billy Collins

Billy Collins's "Introduction to Poetry" juxtaposes what a professor hopes to be the pleasurable experience of reading a poem with the seeming desires of his students to torture some deeper meaning out of it. The positive image pattern related to discovery connects many of the senses metaphorically to the pleasure of reading a poem. The visual image compares looking at an image in a "slide" to the discovery of beauty in a poem. The auditory image follows of "press[ing] an ear against its hive," implying that a poem is a container buzzing with life, and some exciting danger. The tactile image of walking into "the poem's room" and feeling around for a "light switch" reveals how sometimes reading a dark and confusing poem requires discovery, and that the pleasure in that moment is very much like sudden light in a dark room. The image of the "waterski" is both tactile, visual, and even gustatory with the taste of the spray of water, and it is perhaps the most pleasurable image in the poem calling upon experiences of vacations, summer, and fun. Furthermore, the image of "wav[ing] at the author's name on the shore" reveals that the speaker is not concerned with who the poet is, and is furthered by the metonymy of the "the author's name" as it separates the author even further from the experience of reading the poem. The shift in the poem occurs immediately after the "waterski" stanza, with the tone shifting from satisfying and enjoyable to bitter and disappointed. The torturous and mostly tactile image pattern characterizes the students, "they", as active and purposeful, yet wholly inappropriate readers of poetry as they "tie it to a chair" and "beat" the meaning out of it. The theme, then, is that poems should not be read like a riddle, or like they have something to hide, but first for their pleasurable insight into the human condition—for their ability to bring a moment of joy into the English classroom and not a moment of pain for all involved (the poem, the professor, and the students).