

Advanced Placement Literature and Composition

Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to AP Literature!

We hope you enjoy reading these selections of poetry and look forward to learning your thoughts on these works in the fall. Please read the following requirements carefully.

First, please be aware that we are not interested in what SparkNotes, CliffsNotes, or any other websites say about these texts. We want to hear what you think, so do the reading and the writing components *on your own*.

Secondly, don't procrastinate! Each of these works is a rich and engaging text. If you wait until the last minute, you will not be fully prepared to engage in class discussions the first week of school.

Lastly, we encourage you to read at least one novel this summer, of your choice. The more you read, the better reader you become. Not sure what to read? Check out our [list of recommended texts](#). We look forward to hearing your thoughts in the fall.

– Mr. Gifford, Ms. Kim, Ms. Saxton

Three Poems:

“To His Coy Mistress” by Andrew Marvell

“On His Blindness” by Jorge Luis Borges

“Phenomenal Woman” by Maya Angelou

Poetry is the most condensed form of literature.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge called poetry “the best words in the best order.”

Directions:

1. Fully annotate each poem, adding comments that identify techniques (*craft*) AND reflect on deeper meanings (*content*)
2. Complete the TPCASTT worksheet for each poem.

Your poetry annotations and worksheets will be collected on the Friday of the first week of class.

Be ready to discuss these poems in class as well.

Last Name:	First Name:
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To His Coy Mistress

– *Andrew Marvell (1621-1678)*

Had we but world enough, and time,
This coyness, lady, were no crime.
We would sit down, and think which way
To walk, and pass our long love's day.
Thou by the Indian Ganges' side
Shouldst rubies find; I by the tide
Of Humber would complain. I would
Love you ten years before the Flood,
And you should, if you please, refuse
Till the conversion of the Jews.
My vegetable love should grow
Vaster than empires and more slow;
An hundred years should go to praise
Thine eyes, and on thy forehead gaze;
Two hundred to adore each breast,
But thirty thousand to the rest;
An age at least to every part,
And the last age should show your heart.
For, lady, you deserve this state,
Nor would I love at lower rate.

But at my back I always hear
Time's wingèd chariot hurrying near;
And yonder all before us lie

Deserts of vast eternity.
Thy beauty shall no more be found,
Nor, in thy marble vault, shall sound
My echoing song; then worms shall try
That long-preserved virginity,
And your quaint honor turn to dust,
And into ashes all my lust;
The grave's a fine and private place,
But none, I think, do there embrace.

Now therefore, while the youthful hue
Sits on thy skin like morning dew,
And while thy willing soul transpires
At every pore with instant fires,
Now let us sport us while we may,
And now, like amorous birds of prey,
Rather at once our time devour
Than languish in his slow-chapped power.
Let us roll all our strength and all
Our sweetness up into one ball,
And tear our pleasures with rough strife
Thorough the iron gates of life:
Thus, though we cannot make our sun
Stand still, yet we will make him run.

Last Name:

First Name:

TPCASTT “To His Coy Mistress” by Andrew Marvell

TPCASTT: Poem Analysis Method

Title, Paraphrase, Connotation, Attitude, Shift(s), Title revisited, Theme

Title

Before you even think about reading the poetry or trying to analyze it, speculate on what you think the poem *might* be about based upon the title. Often time authors conceal meaning in the title and give clues in the title. Jot down what you think this poem will be about...

Paraphrase

When you paraphrase a poem, write in your own words exactly what happens in the poem. Look at the number of sentences in the poem—your paraphrase should have exactly the same number. This technique is especially helpful for poems written in the 17th and 19th centuries. Sometimes your teacher may allow you to *summarize* what happens in the poem. Make sure that you understand the difference between a *paraphrase* and a *summary*.

Connotation

Although this term usually refers solely to the emotional overtones of word choice, for this approach the term refers to any and all poetic devices, focusing on how such devices contribute to the meaning, the effect, or both of a poem. You may consider imagery, figures of speech (simile, metaphor, personification, symbolism, etc.), diction, point of view, and sound devices (alliteration, onomatopoeia, rhythm, and rhyme). It is not necessary that you identify all the poetic devices within the poem. The ones you do identify should be seen as a way of supporting the conclusions you are going to draw about the poem.

<p>Attitude Having examined the poem's devices and clues closely, you are now ready to explore the multiple attitudes that may be present in the poem. Examination of diction, images, and details suggests the speaker's attitude and contributes to understanding. Remember that usually the tone or attitude cannot be named with a single word. Think <i>complexity</i>.</p>	
<p>Shift Rarely does a poem begin and end the poetic experience in the same place. As is true of most of us, the poet's understanding of an experience is a gradual realization, and the poem is a reflection of that understanding or insight. Watch for the following keys to shifts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key words, (but, yet, however, although) • punctuation (dashes, periods, colons, ellipsis) • stanza divisions • changes in line or stanza length or both • irony • changes in sound that may indicate changes in meaning • changes in diction 	
<p>Title Revisited Now look at the title again, but this time on an interpretive level. What new insight does the title provide in understanding the poem?</p>	
<p>Theme What is the poem saying about the human experience, motivation, or condition? What subject or subjects does the poem address? What do you learn about those subjects? What idea does the poet want you to take away with you concerning these subjects? Remember that the theme of any work of literature is stated in a complete sentence.</p>	

Last Name:	First Name:
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On His Blindness

In the fullness of the years, like it or not,
a luminous mist surrounds me, unvarying,
that breaks things down into a single thing,
colorless, formless. Almost into a thought.
The elemental, vast night and the day
teeming with people have become that fog
of constant, tentative light that does not flag,
and lies in wait at dawn. I longed to see
just once a human face. Unknown to me
the closed encyclopedia, the sweet play
in volumes I can do no more than hold,
the tiny soaring birds, the moons of gold.
Others have the world, for better or worse;
I have this half-dark, and the toil of verse.

—*Jorge Luis Borges (1899-1986)*

**Borges began losing his eyesight in the 1920s; by the time he was 55, he suffered from complete blindness.*

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TPCASTT “On His Blindness” by Jorge Luis Borges

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Phenomenal Woman

—*Maya Angelou (1928 - 2014)*

Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.
I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size
But when I start to tell them,
They think I'm telling lies.
I say,
It's in the reach of my arms,
The span of my hips,
The stride of my step,
The curl of my lips.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

I walk into a room
Just as cool as you please,
And to a man,
The fellows stand or
Fall down on their knees.
Then they swarm around me,
A hive of honey bees.
I say,
It's the fire in my eyes,
And the flash of my teeth,
The swing in my waist,
And the joy in my feet.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.

Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Men themselves have wondered
What they see in me.
They try so much
But they can't touch
My inner mystery.
When I try to show them,
They say they still can't see.
I say,
It's in the arch of my back,
The sun of my smile,
The ride of my breasts,
The grace of my style.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Now you understand
Just why my head's not bowed.
I don't shout or jump about
Or have to talk real loud.
When you see me passing,
It ought to make you proud.
I say,
It's in the click of my heels,
The bend of my hair,
the palm of my hand,
The need for my care.
'Cause I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
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AP English Literature & Composition

List of Recommended Summer Reading

We encourage you to read at least one novel this summer,
one of your own choice or one from the list below.

Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

The House of Spirits by Isabel Allende

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

Kindred by Octavia Butler

The Awakening by Kate Chopin

Breath, Eyes, Memory by Edwidge Danticat

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao by Junot Díaz

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Love in the Time of Cholera by Gabriel García Márquez

A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey

1984 by George Orwell

Cat's Cradle by Kurt Vonnegut

The House of Mirth by Edith Wharton