

# Summer Reading 2010

## AP Literature

### Required Reading

#### Nonfiction

##### ***How to Read Literature Like a Professor* – 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 the 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." – Harper Collins Publishing

##### ***Mythology* – Edith Hamilton**

"For over fifty years readers have chosen this book above all others to discover the thrilling, enchanting, and fascinating world of Western mythology. Edith Hamilton's classic collection not only retells these stories with brilliant clarity but shows us how their themes echo in our consciousness today." - Warner Books

#### Fiction

##### ***Oryx and Crake* - Margaret Atwood**

"In *Oryx and Crake*, a science fiction novel that is more Swift than Heinlein, more cautionary tale than "fictional science" (no flying cars here), Margaret Atwood depicts a near-future world that turns from the merely horrible to the horrific, from a fool's paradise to a bio-wasteland. Snowman (a man once known as Jimmy) sleeps in a tree and just might be the only human left on our devastated planet. He is not entirely alone, however, as he considers himself the shepherd of a group of experimental,

human-like creatures called the Children of Crake. As he scavenges and tends to his insect bites, Snowman recalls in flashbacks how the world fell apart.” - Amazon.com review

### ***The Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* – James Joyce**

James Joyce's *Portrait of an Artist* is one of the most significant literary works of the twentieth century, and one of the most innovative. Its originality shocked contemporary readers on its publication in 1916 who found its treating of the minutiae of daily life as indecorous, and its central character unappealing. Was it art or was it filth?

The novel charts the intellectual, moral, and sexual development of Stephen Dedalus, from his childhood listening to his father's stories through his schooldays and adolescence to the brink of adulthood and independence, and his awakening as an artist. Growing up in a Catholic family in Dublin in the final years of the nineteenth century, Stephen's consciousness is forged by Irish history and politics, by Catholicism and culture, language and art. Stephen's story mirrors that of Joyce himself, and the novel is both startlingly realistic and brilliantly crafted, not to mention that it is one of the founding texts of Modernism and the precursor of the acclaimed *Ulysses*. – Amazon Review

### **Assignments:**

1. You will have an AP exam style in-class writing prompt on *Oryx and Crake* and *The Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man* **upon your return to school.**
2. **Over the summer** you are responsible for carefully reading and annotating the four books and posting your comments and analysis on [www.nicenet.org](http://www.nicenet.org) where I have created a page for you. Once you have created a username (that I can easily identify you by) and a password, log onto our page:

**Class code: E293762267**

**Class name: 2010-2011 AP Literature**

- You have all summer to post **three times for both *Oryx and Crake* and *The Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man* (6 total posts).**

- I will have some questions/prompts on nicenet to get you thinking, but you are welcome to write about whatever you like from the novels.
- Each post should be thoughtful, thorough (approx. 2 paragraphs) and refer back to the text.
- Use this opportunity to respond to your peers' comments and questions.
- **The deadline for this assignment is the first day of school, but don't wait until the last minute to make all of your posts! It's more fun when people participate throughout the summer.**

### **Suggested Additional Reads for the Voracious Reader**

***Tortilla Curtain* – T.C. Boyle**

***Native Son* – Richard Wright**

***Native Speaker* – Chang Rae-Lee**

***The Namesake* – Jhumpa Lahiri**

***Obasan* – Joy Kogawa**

***The Things They Carried* – Tim O'Brien**

***Snow Falling on Cedars* - David Guterson**