

## ***AP Literature/Composition Summer Assignment 2010-2011***

“The AP English Literature and Composition course is designed to engage students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students can deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As they read, students should consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as such smaller-scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone” (College Board).

**Assignment:** You will all be reading a selection of one novel, one play, and one literary guide. You will be following the AP structure of focusing on “a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as such smaller-scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone.”

**Part I:** First, enjoy your reading of *How to Read Literature like a Professor: a Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading between the Lines* by Thomas C. Foster. Then expand upon your “tool box” (that already includes terms related to figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone) by creating individual 3”X5” note cards that represent the specific themes, patterns, symbols, allusions, archetypes and analogies presented in *How to Read Literature like a Professor*. For example, your first cards should include the Faust legend, Beowulf symbolism, Oedipal complex, elements of a quest, etc... (those are just some ideas for four cards from the first intro and first 5 pages). Yes, you will create dozens and dozens of these cards.

**Part II:** Read *The Awakening* and *Selected Short Stories* by Kate Chopin, *Rosencratz and Guildenstern are Dead* by Tom Stoppard. As you read search for connections/applications of your “tool box” and the use of specific themes, patterns, symbols, allusions, archetypes, analogies, figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone. Create some kind of charting/tracking/note taking system where you record and discuss/analyze the author's use of these elements in each novel. Prepare as though you are writing a major in-depth analysis paper about each of these novels.

Be prepared to turn in your complete “tool boxes” and charts/notes the first day of class.