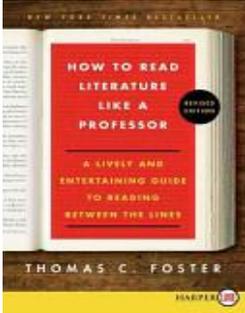


AP English Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignment 2017  
Ms. Jaclyn Brilliant

Please read the following books. All are readily available in libraries and book stores. You may use electronic versions of these books if you prefer.

1. *How To Read Literature Like a Professor*, by Thomas C. Foster

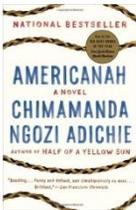
This is a manual for how we will approach much of the fiction we read during the year. You should read this first.



2. *The Odyssey*, by Homer, translated by Robert Fitzgerald (\*Please note you must use the Fitzgerald translation.)



3. *Americanah*, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.



(over, please)

Assignment:

1. First and foremost, read these books *carefully*. We will spend the first month of school discussing and writing about these works and using the Foster manual as a tool. I will also be assessing your knowledge of the content of the texts during the first week of classes. Both are stories of characters on quests. Both Odysseus and Ifemelu are seekers—of truth, of home, of contentment---even though the works are written centuries apart.
  
2. In a 3-5 paged, double-spaced, typed essay, compare and contrast the main characters of these works, Odysseus and Ifemelu. Your essay should include the following:
  - Brief character descriptions of both characters, along with very brief summaries of what happens to each in the course of the works.
  - A description and comparison of the settings of both works.
  - Consideration of narrative point of view in each work. Who tells the story, and how much does the point of view affect the reader's experience?
  - A discussion of how Odysseus and Ifemelu present contrasts to each other.
  - A discussion of what they have in common and how they are alike.
  - Some concluding thoughts of your own on the different responses possible to these characters. How did you connect to them personally, and what factors do you think affected your own connections to them?
  - Your essay should use quotes from the works, citing book and line numbers for *The Odyssey* and page numbers for *Americanah*.
  - You may strike a personal, somewhat informal tone in this essay, but it should be gracefully written with a precise, interesting vocabulary and a distinctive voice. Impress me!
  
3. Provide an outline for the information contained in *How to Read Literature like a Professor*. Essentially, you will be typing up your notes and/or annotations from that book.