

# DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL

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## Summer Reading for AP Literature students

There is a **MANDATORY lunch** meeting on **Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**, in room **415**. You must come at the beginning of lunch (11:40) **to sign** the AP Course contract for AP literature, verifying that you intend to enroll in this course. I am excited for the up-coming year and hope to see you all on the 19<sup>th</sup>!

Students enrolled in this course are expected to read *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde and *Oryx and Crake* by Margaret Atwood. Students are expected to read authentic (not abbreviated) versions of each text in order to explore diction, syntax, and style in addition to simple plot development and characterization. My expectations are that students have not only passed their eyes across the pages to say they understand the plot of these works, but also that they have given sufficient thought to the composition and purpose of the works. I recommend that students buy their own copy and annotate it, using both a highlighter and pen or pencil (of course, students may also borrow a copy from the library and take notes on it). On the first day, I often ask to see the annotations (highlighting and comments within the books) or to see the notes regarding summer reading. In addition, the better students will also read *How to Read like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster. On the first day, I begin class with an exam on these texts, including a couple questions from the Foster text which might be the difference between an “A” and a “B”. No exceptions will be given to taking this exam late. If students choose not to read the literature, they will start the semester badly. The second part of the assessment is an argumentative essay, sometimes written on the first day, although most often composed on the second day. I don’t recommend students consult supplemental material as that often serves more as a crutch to prevent real accomplishment in understanding a text. I find that spending more time with the real text is better than wasting time on supplements like SparksNotes.

I welcome each and every student to this class and applaud their desire to work at a higher tempo and explore literature to greater depths. It has become the policy of Douglas High School that transfers into and out of this class must occur before the end of this school year in order to properly serve students and create the best schedule for all students. Please feel free to ask me any questions you have regarding this class or the summer assignment before you leave on summer vacation.

Happy Reading!

Ms. Heine  
AP Literature teacher  
Debate coach  
Douglas High School