



Here are my thoughts on summer work: I want it to be meaningful, enjoyable, and reasonable. Overloading you with tedious assignments to “set the tone” for the class isn’t my style and doesn’t really benefit you. The only tone I want to set is one of actively reading texts you find interesting and opportunities to experiment with your writing voice.

### **Part I: Building Your Reading and Analysis Muscles**

We will read several books over the course of the coming year, but in order to get the most out of those books, there’s one text that is going to be a huge help to you: *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster. This is going to give you a basic understanding of terms and ideas that we’ll be using all year long. We’ll pair this with a fiction text so that you can practice the skills that you’re learning on a work that is also going to be useful to you on your exam.

**Over the summer, please read and annotate both (Amazon copies linked below):**

- [How to Read Literature Like a Professor](#) - Thomas C. Foster
- [Homegoing](#) - Yaa Gyasi

After you finish *Homegoing*, identify 5 key scenes from the novel and discuss in at least one well-developed paragraph per scene why each is significant to the novel as a whole. (5 scenes = 5 paragraphs.) These scenes should point readers to the larger meaning of the work as a whole (aka - what this novel is teaching us about life). Look out for scenes that include a character resolving a crisis, an epiphany, some sort of conflict, or a scene where tensions come to head - these could all mark key moments.

## Innovation Academy AP Literature Summer Assignment, 2023

**A note on annotating:** Students ask all the time “why do we have to annotate?” Annotation is not meant to spoil the act of reading or to bog you down with trying to pick out things that you think I want you to find. Annotating is a way to keep a journal as you read, to be an active participant with a book. It’s a way for you to find your way back to favorite quotes, a way for you to have conversations with the characters - it’s a way for you to actively participate as a reader. Believe it or not, annotating has become kind of cool, especially since the rise of BookTok (I swear I’m not making this up...)

If you’re not sure what to annotate, consider the following as you read:

- Highlight some favorite quotes
- Note characterization or other literary techniques you find successful or unsuccessful
- Highlight or mark aspects of the book that make you feel something
- Mark and briefly note parts, moments, or characters that you don’t like
- Sensory details that catch your attention
- Did part of the story give you an idea or remind you of something else? Write it directly into the pages or on a post-it.
- Record random thoughts that pop into your head while reading
- Did a conflict or twist shock you? Note it!
- Note any motifs so you can look back at them later
- Is the author using a trope you love/hate? Note that!