

AP Literature and Composition
Summer Reading 2017-2018

Novels

Joseph Heller, *Catch-22*

Cormac McCarthy, *All the Pretty Horses*

Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth*

Thomas C. Foster, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor***

Journal

You are to keep a journal of your reading for each of the three novels. You may write as you read through each novel or after you complete the entire text. You may write several short entries or one long one for each book. Write analytically, personally, and/or contemplatively. Consider ideas as well as literary elements (characterization, language, style, narrative structure, metaphor, description, etc.). As part of the journal for each novel, references should be made to specific events and characters in the text. If you include quoted material, it should be brief (no more than one sentence at a time). A journal length for each novel is two-to-three typed pages, with three pages being the maximum (journals should be double-spaced).

In short, the journal assignment is intended to be flexible, not rigid. Take the opportunity to be thoughtful and reflective. Develop a personal relationship with the text. Demonstrate your passion for literature. Have fun with your analysis.

Journals will be worth 50 points. Effort and thoughtfulness will be the primary criteria on which you are evaluated. (I will discuss formal grading policies and give you an AP Scoring Guide in September.) Of course, this is an AP class so grammar and mechanics will affect your grade (proofread carefully).

At the start of each novel's journal entry, include a VERY short bio of the author (when were they born, where were they born what was happening of note during the historical time period during which the novel was written). All journal entries must include TAG.

Your journals will be very useful during discussion of the novels in class in September. Those discussions will lead to a formal essay.

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!

NOTE: Cormac McCarthy's *All the Pretty Horses* contains some phrases and passages in Spanish. You can find English translations for those online at: <http://www.cormacmccarthy.com/resources/translations/>

For Foster's text, simply write a brief (1-2 page) reaction to a specific idea about literary analysis