

**Advanced Placement English: Literature & Composition**  
**2021 Summer Reading Assignment**  
**Lassiter High School**

Welcome to Advanced Placement Literature & Composition! As a student in this course, you will engage in the careful reading and analysis of extraordinary and classic literary works. In order to begin the 2021-2022 school year on a positive note, finish the following readings and be prepared to complete corresponding assignments during the first few weeks of school.

**Assignment I: How to Read Literature like a Professor by Thomas C. Foster\***

Don't be turned off by the title—this is an entertaining and amazingly insightful foray into the meanings of literature beyond the literal. It really gets you thinking about literature in a “deeper” way.

- Carefully **read and annotate** Foster's book-- there will be a project assigned the first week of school.

**Assignment II: Analysis of the Novel**

- Select one of the three novels listed below (this means doing some background research on which novel you think best suits your interests) and read it. As you read, **ANNOTATE &/or TAKE NOTES on the literary elements/motifs presented in Foster's How to Read Literature Like a Professor that you notice.**

Select and read **one novel** from the list below\*

No Country for Old Men  
The Roundhouse  
The Joy Luck Club

Cormac McCarthy  
Louise Erdrich  
Amy Tan

You will be assigned an essay during the first few weeks of school in which you will be asked to apply the concepts from Foster's book to a “deeper”, more figurative understanding of the novel you have chosen.

Enjoy your summer reading! The books are truly outstanding, and we believe that you will find them engaging. If you have any questions regarding the summer reading assignments, please feel free to email us at:

or [anne.blanchard@cobbk12.org](mailto:anne.blanchard@cobbk12.org) or [hilary.minich@cobbk12.org](mailto:hilary.minich@cobbk12.org)

**Rationale/Explanation:**

Thomas C. Foster's best-selling *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* is an entertaining and informative discussion of classic literature's underlying patterns, influences, and figurative meanings. Foster urges and encourages novice readers to embrace and emulate the process of reading literature like a seasoned veteran and he shows them how.

**See descriptions and rationales for novels on next page**

## **No Country for Old Men:**

In this novel, Cormac McCarthy returns to the Texas-Mexico border, setting of his famed *Border Trilogy*. The time is our own, when rustlers have given way to drug-runners and small towns have become free-fire zones. One day, a good old boy named Llewellyn Moss finds a pickup truck surrounded by a bodyguard of dead men. A load of heroin and two million dollars in cash are still in the back. When Moss takes the money, he sets off a chain reaction of catastrophic violence that not even the law—in the person of aging, disillusioned Sheriff Bell—can contain. As Moss tries to evade his pursuers—in particular a mysterious mastermind who flips coins for human lives—McCarthy simultaneously strips down the American crime novel and broadens its concerns to encompass themes as ancient as the Bible and as bloodily contemporary as this morning's headlines. *No Country for Old Men* is a triumph.

## **The Roundhouse**

One of the most revered novelists of our time—a brilliant chronicler of Native-American life—Louise Erdrich returns to the territory of her bestselling, Pulitzer Prize finalist *The Plague of Doves* with *The Round House*, transporting readers to the Ojibwe reservation in North Dakota. It is an exquisitely told story of a boy on the cusp of manhood who seeks justice and understanding in the wake of a terrible crime that upends and forever transforms his family.

Riveting and suspenseful, arguably the most accessible novel to date from the creator of *Love Medicine*, *The Beet Queen*, and *The Bingo Palace*, Erdrich's *The Round House* is a page-turning masterpiece of literary fiction—at once a powerful coming-of-age story, a mystery, and a tender, moving novel of family, history, and culture.

## ***The Joy Luck Club:***

**Amy Tan's beloved, *New York Times* bestselling tale of mothers and daughters**

Four mothers, four daughters, four families whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who's "saying" the stories. In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. United in shared unspeakable loss and hope, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Rather than sink into tragedy, they choose to gather to raise their spirits and money. "To despair was to wish back for something already lost. Or to prolong what was already unbearable." Forty years later the stories and history continue.

With wit and sensitivity, Amy Tan examines the sometimes painful, often tender, and always deep connection between mothers and daughters. As each woman reveals her secrets, trying to unravel the truth about her life, the strings become more tangled, more entwined. Mothers boast or despair over daughters, and daughters roll their eyes even as they feel the inextricable tightening of their matriarchal ties. Tan is an astute storyteller, enticing readers to immerse themselves into these lives of complexity and mystery.