

May 2010

Greetings,

I am writing this letter to introduce you to your 12th AP Literature class. My name is Mrs. Hatcher and I will be the instructor for the class. As you may or may not know, there will be four classes of 12th AP Literature next year. That means that at least one class of AP Literature will be in the fall semester. Therefore, please budget your time accordingly, as you do not know which semester you will be in the class.

I would also like to say a word about integrity. As the AP Seniors, you should be setting an example for the underclassmen as well as preparing yourself for the rigors of college life. Please do not cheat yourself by merely reading the Spark Notes (or some other study companion) for the assigned summer pieces. While these study guides can be helpful for a better understanding of the material, they do not replace a full reading. I expect all students, but especially AP students, to work hard and independently. AP Literature is a demanding course, but you will be grateful for that when you begin your college life. However, I would like to say that for reading Merchant of Venice you may wish to consider purchasing the play in the “No Fear Shakespeare” version. These books are put out by the Spark Notes company, but they have the entire Shakespeare text with the modern version on the left hand side of each page. My students have found this very helpful in the past if they are attempting to read Shakespeare on their own. I would also like to recommend that you read a book called How to Read Literature Like a Professor. This is not a required book for this class, but I think you will find it a valuable resource for your senior year and beyond. I think it will prove to be a valuable resource well into your college years.

Please make sure that you secure copies of Merchant of Venice and And Then There Were None as soon as possible. I have some copies, but not enough for everyone. It is really more beneficial to purchase the books if possible because you can make notes in them. Used book stores usually have these titles for a much lower price than new book stores. If you are buying these titles or checking them out from the public library, please note that And Then There Were None was originally published under the title Ten Little Indians. Also, please feel free to e-mail me with any questions or concerns that arise throughout the summer. I am looking forward to a productive semester with all of you. Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

R. Hatcher
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