

Jamie Fields
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AP English Literature (Grade 12)

Books: *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini
 How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas C. Foster

Summer Reading Requirements

1. **Reading Guide** (Mrs. Fields assigns different questions to each student shared on a **Google Doc** in May: 1 (one) 100-pt. daily grade, must be completed by 8 a.m. on first day of school (Wed., Aug. 9).
You must answer in complete sentences to get credit. Please type answers in bright blue or red.

Spaces will be reserved on the Google Doc for students **who register late.**

I will make a PDF of the **Google Doc** at 8 a.m. on Aug. 9. **If your answers aren't on the Google Doc at that time, you will get a 0 on this assignment.**

2. **Dialectical Journal** (30 entries): **2 (two) 100-point quiz grades**, submitted at the beginning of class on first day of school (Aug. 9)

(Dialectical Journal guidelines attached below.)

3. **How to Read Literature Like a Professor Log**—This **Google Doc** will have a section heading for each chapter in Foster's book. As you find examples of these authorial tricks in the novel, log them in the **Google Doc**.

You need to record **at least 4 entries** in this log. You may not duplicate anyone else's entry/discovery. Please **type your name** as the first term in the entry (see below).

Please enter these by the order (by chapter) in which they appear in *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (chronologically). For example, an example from Ch. 8 will appear after an entry for Ch. 4.)

Sample entries:

Chapter 1: Every Trip is a Quest (Except When It's Not)

1. [John Q. Student](#)

Chapters 4 + (this “trick” begins in Ch. 4 and develops throughout)

Sarah’s Journey from Des Moines to Las Vegas

- a. A quester: Sarah
- b. A place to go: future mother-in-law’s house in Las Vegas
- c. A stated reason to go there: Sarah must meet Jason’s mother before their wedding in one month
- d. Challenges and trials: Sarah’s motorcycle breaks down in the middle of nowhere; the only ride she can get is from a sketchy trucker

Trucker’s iPod is playing Echo and the Bunnymen, Sarah’s favorite band in her college days. She is drawn to the trucker, more comfortable with him than with Jason; they bond over music; realizes she doesn’t want to marry Jason; Jason’s mother has already paid \$15,000 of wedding expenses, making Sarah feel obligated

- e. The real reason to go: Sarah realizes she doesn’t want to marry anyone, especially Jason; finds courage to break up; learns to look at life honestly and authentically.

Chapter 3: Nice to Eat With You: Acts of Communion

1. Natasha A. Student

Chapter 8

Lunch at Diner—Sarah likes Hector, he likes her back

p. 122: “Sarah took three french fries from Hector’s tray, stared squarely in his face, and slowly chewed” (not something she had ever done with Jason’s french fries)

Chapter 6: When in Doubt, It’s from Shakespeare...

1. Joey T. Student

Chapter 6

Sarah’s dad is named Larry Lear; he is irrational and has 3 daughters (King Lear)

pp. 94-98: Larry yells at Sarah; threatens to leave her out of his will and leave everything to her sisters, Gennie and Raelene

What to expect when school starts

1. **Quiz**--Know all plot events, place names, and characters. *Note: The quiz will cover not only *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, but also specific information from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*.*

Format: Multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank, true/false, short answer--100-pt. quiz grade on first full day of school (**Thurs., Aug. 10**)

2. **Test**--Know all plot events, place names, and characters; analyze themes or deeper meanings of novel in essay.

Format: Multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank, true/false, essay--100-pt. test grade (**end of first full week of school or beginning of second**)

Dialectical Journal Guidelines

Dialectical Journal

A goal this year is for you to consistently enter into a dialogue with what you read. To develop this skill, you will be keeping a dialectical journal throughout the course. This journal should be kept in a composition notebook that looks just like this one:



You may decorate, cover, or otherwise make it your own, but it should be this size (9 ¾ X 7 ½) and contain at least 100 pages. You will periodically turn the journal in and I do not want varied sizes, shapes and weights to carry.

Set up the page:

Fold the paper so that the line runs from top to bottom (lengthwise). NOTE: You may simple draw a LINE down the middle of the paper. **On the left side of the line**, copy the part of the text you are responding to using proper format:

“Always put quotation marks around what you copy from a book. Then place the author and page number in parenthesis after the quotation” (Monahan 34).

Selecting a quotation to respond to:

- A quotation does not need to be dialogue (something a character says).
- Do not let the length of a quotation keep you from selecting it. The important thing is that **the quotation makes you think**.
- When you write the quotation down, be sure you include enough surrounding context so that you can remember its importance.

Remember, since **you** are picking the quotation, your commentary in the “making notes” section should be substantial. Jotting only a few comments is not sufficient.

On the right side of the line, write your comments about the quotation. These fall into many different categories. Some options:

- Ask questions you would like to pose to the author. Since the author can’t answer you, you will have to write the answers yourself.
- Make connections between the quotation and whatever it reminds you of from some previous reading, viewing or living experience
- Rewrite the quote from another narrator character’s point of view, or provide what you think another narrator or character’s perspective on that quotation might be
- Identify irony or other literary elements represented in the quotation.
- Counterarguments to the quotation you have chosen
- Personal narrative connecting the quotation to your own experience
- Prediction of how the piece will end – what it will lead you to believe
- Analysis of one passage and its relationship to the meaning of the story as a whole

Grade: This will count as a 150-pt. quiz grade, 30 entries required (10 of these must relate to *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*).

Dialectical Journal Example using *Grendel*

Insightful quotation and page number	Making Notes (your response to the quotations you selected)
<p>#1</p> <p>(opening scene; watching ram mount a tree stump, ready to mate)</p> <p>“Do not think my brains are squeezed shut, like the ram’s, by the roots of horns” (1).</p>	<p>Because Grendel is talking directly to reader, he seems to regard reader as an equal, doesn’t want us to judge him the way we do beasts. He wants reader to know he isn’t stupid, that he’s better than other animals. Does this show that he’s arrogant? It seems to.</p> <p>Also suggests he’s open-minded (brains not “squeezed shut”). I like that.</p>
<p>#2</p> <p>Grendel is talking about deer, rabbits, bears, MEN and says they</p> <p>“can make, concerning my race, no delicate distinctions. That is their happiness: they see all life without observing it” (3).</p>	<p>Grendel sees himself as a victim of racism, feels judged—seems to imply that he feels judged by his “cover,” not by what’s inside.</p> <p>But also, and this is key--he implies that one can be happy only by NOT observing life. As in, if you see life as it really is, you cannot be happy. So implies that he is UNHAPPY and that he DOES observe life as it is. Wow. That’s depressing.</p>

If you register **late** or drop the class over the summer, please **email me** at jfields@stjweb.org so I can share the **Google Docs** (**Reading Guide** and **How to Read Literature Like a Professor Log**) with you.