

## **Summary of AP English Literature Summer Work**

[AP Lit Introductory Letter](#) Re: AP Lit Class Expectations and Justification (Please read FIRST)

	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Additional Notes</b>
1	Essay #1 (one chapter of <i>HTRLLAP</i> compare to novel, <i>Cuckoo's Nest</i> )	<b>Sunday, July 26, 2026</b>	Submit in Summer Schoology Session
2	Essay #2 (prompt on cruelty in <i>Cuckoo's Nest</i> )	<b>Wed, Aug 5 (first day of class)</b>	Print out, turn in by hand to start class (also submit in TurnItIn in Schoology)
3	Novel Study #1 (FRQ 3) (Literature Reflection and Overview)	<b>Wed, Aug 5 (first day of class)</b>	Submit in Schoology prior to 1st class
4	Five Questions w/ paragraph responses	<b>Thur, Aug 6 (by midnight, 11:59pm)</b>	Submit in Schoology
5	Test on <i>Cuckoo's Nest</i>	<b>During first week of school (Friday, Aug. 7)</b>	Done in class

\*Read *HTRLLAP* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* prior to doing the assignments

**\*\*NOTE:** Any of the above work not done during summer and submitted by the due dates and times must be completed within 4 weeks from the start of school and will be part of the "3 late assignments allowed per semester." You will only receive half credit on any of the three late assignments and will impact your final grade.

### **AP Lit Summer Reading 2026**

Please read Ken Kesey's *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* over the summer. You will be given a reading test with a writing portion on *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* the first full week back from summer break. One summer essay will be choosing one chapter from *How to Read Lit* and applying it to *Cuckoo's Nest*. *How to Read Lit* will help you with deeply analyzing literature and literary devices.

## AP Lit Summer Writing 2026

**You will be writing TWO compositions this summer, due throughout the summer (July and August).** Essays will be required to be submitted online in a Schoology summer session through Turn It In to check for plagiarism and AI detection. The summer session won't be open until semester 2 is closed for the 2025-26 school year.

After reading *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *How to Read Literature*, apply the novel to any **one chapter** of your choice in Foster. There is a sample essay in the back of Foster to guide you, as well as multiple examples within each chapter. The chapter response essay will be a five paragraph essay, between 750 - 1,000 words in length, using proper MLA format. For example, if you are reading the chapter "Yes, She's a Christ Figure, Too" in *How to Read Literature*, you will write an essay on the significance of one of the characters as a Christ Figure in *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*. You will need **at least 6 quotes total** from *Cuckoo's Nest* per essay, and in the introduction paragraph of essay 1 you'll want to refer to *How to Read Lit*. You may use quoted material from *How to Read Lit* throughout your essay if you feel it adds to your argument about *Cuckoo's Nest*.

*The due dates for the essays are as follows: (if you know you'll be out of town, you must do it AHEAD of time, AP means no excuses)*

- **Essay 1: Sunday, 26 July 2026\***, submitted online in our AP Lit Summer Session in Schoology's Turn It In plagiarism and AI detection program by midnight (11:59pm)
  - Prompt info is above and here. Pick ONE chapter from *How to Read Lit* and apply it to *Cuckoo's Nest*. For example, if you pick the chapter on symbols, then pick 1 symbol from the novel to write your essay on. What does the symbol mean, how does it develop throughout *Cuckoo's Nest*. (6 quotes minimum). Always include thematic significance (meaning as a whole, deeper meaning of claim you are making, make an argument)
- **Essay 2: Wednesday, 5 August 2026\*** (first day of our class) at the beginning of the class period.
  - Bring a printed, hard-copy with you to class.

- Follow the same general guidelines that you used for the previous essay, but note the different prompt below.
- **PROMPT for 2nd ESSAY:** In literary works, cruelty often functions as a crucial motivation or a major social or political factor. In *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, acts of cruelty are important to the theme. Write a well-developed essay analyzing how cruelty functions in the work as a whole and what the cruelty reveals about the perpetrator and/or victim.
- Think THEMATIC statement for “work as a whole”-lesson or message about cruelty

**\*NOTE:** Essays that are submitted after the due date will not be eligible for full credit and will count towards your “3 late assignments allowed per semester for half credit.” There will be a rubric on our summer Schoology session that details how your essays will be graded.

### Literature Reflection and Overview (AP Lit Study Forms)

- **Choose 1 novel or play (MUST BE FICTION, NOT NON-FICTION)** you read in class from your junior year of high school. These texts cannot be nonfiction nor a personal book you’ve read (no IR). The book must be part of the “canon” (meaning considered a classic or book of literary merit, ie. no *Harry Potter* or *Twilight*.) Complete the study form, one per novel/play. Be detailed and thorough enough so that someone reading it would know the deeper meanings and significance of the texts. These should be thorough assignments that overview the plot, character, setting, style, and themes of each text.
  - [ASSIGNMENT HERE](#)
  - **DUE: First day of class (to start class-submit in Schoology), Wednesday, August 5, 2026**
- Lastly, answer each of the five questions below relating to both *Cuckoo's Nest* and *How to Read Lit Like a Professor (HTRLLAP)*. Use quotations from both texts as well as your own commentary, answer each of the five questions accompanying each quotation below.
 

\*This should be a well-written discussion (i.e.: detailed—sometimes

multiple—paragraphs) of the message Foster is expressing in HTRLLAP and the message the author, Ken Kesey, is expressing in his novel.

**DUE: Thursday, Aug 6 (by 11:59pm)**

**1. Every Trip is a Quest (Ch. 1): “The real reason for a quest is always self-knowledge” (Foster 7).**

a. In the novel, what is the quest? Choose a character and explain (in detail) how he/she gains self-knowledge. Cite from the text as you explain your answer.

**2. It’s More Than Just Rain or Snow (Ch. 10): “It’s never just rain” (Foster 44).**

a. Choose a scene where weather OR the environment is more than what it seems and explain the significance. Cite from the text and be detailed.

**3. Is That a Symbol? (Ch. 12): “Some symbols do have a relatively limited range of meanings, but in general a symbol can’t be reduced to standing for only one thing. If they can, it’s not symbolism, it’s allegory” (Foster 56).**

a. Identify a symbol in the novel/play. What is the writer doing with this image or object? What possibilities are suggested by the movement of the narrative? What does the image or object FEEL like it is doing? Cite and support from the text.

**4. Marked for Greatness (Ch. 21): “How many stories do you know in which the hero is different from everyone else in some way...” (Foster 102).**

a. Who is the hero/heroine of the novel? How do you know he/she is the hero/heroine? Is there a visible, physical difference between the hero and other characters? Be detailed and cite evidence.

**5. Don’t Read with Your Eyes (Ch. 25): “...take the works as they were intended to be taken...” (Foster 119).**

a. Choose a quote that reflects the overall meaning of the work and explain.  
b. What did you glean from this reading experience? Be detailed.

**Questions or Concerns:** Please email me at [tbarmeyer@njuhsd.com](mailto:tbarmeyer@njuhsd.com)

I will be camping in various dead zones throughout the summer, so be patient with replies as my cell service won't always be reliable. As a reminder, [please read the purpose and justification letter for the course](#). I look forward to collaborating with all of you this next school year!