

2021-2022 AP Lit/Comp Summer Reading Assignment

Part I: Reading Prose

Purchase and read the book *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt. Complete the assignment at this link: [The Secret History Character Project](#).

My thoughts on *The Secret History*: I'll be completely honest with you: *The Secret History* starts off slow. The narrator, Richard, is not the most likeable character I have ever gotten to know. However, the book gets good, so don't give up on it. Things get pretty crazy toward the end. Also, this book will be one of the most useful to you to prepare for the AP Lit exam. So read the entire book, and be ready to discuss it starting on the first day of school. We will use this book extensively during the first weeks of school, so read and remember it.

Part II: Reading Poetry

This is your chance to get to know me a little better. Read my favorite contemporary poem, "[Bleeding Heart](#)" by [Carmen Giménez Smith](#) and my favorite classic poem, "[I Have Thoughts That Are Fed By the Sun](#)" by [William Wordsworth](#). These are my favorites for now, although they are always changing as I change. What similarities do you notice in the themes of the poems? Why do you think I like them so much? What does that tell you about me?

Find two poems new to you that you love. Please don't pick poems that you have already studied in school. A good place to start is at the [Poetry Marketplace Padlet that I made, linked here](#). And if you are not a "poetry person," then find two poems that express a feeling or experience that you can relate with.

Part III: Writing

[Read my letter to you here](#), then write me a letter that you will deliver to me the first week of school. The instructions can be found in my letter to you.

Please email me if you have any questions over the summer at beth.gordon@henry.k12.ga.us and I'll be happy to answer any questions.

Have a great summer!!