



AP Lit Survival Guide: What to Do and What Not to Do

Congratulations on taking AP Literature with Mr. Bah! You are taking a challenging, interesting, and fun course. I took AP Lit with Mr. Bah this year and had a rollercoaster ride of ups and downs in his class. There were times (many times) where I would flake on my work or reading, but there were also times that I would power through everything and keep up. I have learned a great deal on what to do and what not to do in Mr. Bah's class in order to succeed. If you are an incoming senior, I hope this list will help you get through the year!

What to Do:

Show up for class every day:

It is imperative to show up to class everyday. My attendance was not outstanding, and when I missed class it was very hard for me to stay up to date and keep up with assignments, reading, and notes. If you are the kind of student who doesn't make it to class a lot, be sure to go to this one. Your attendance is the easiest step to stay on top of this class.

Do the reading and reread it. Don't use Sparknotes:

Sometimes, it is hard to do the reading, and people will rely on Sparknotes to see what happens in the book you are reading. Sparknotes will not work in this class. Mr. Bah has made his quizzes Sparknote free, and makes questions only

answerable if you really read. Do the reading! Many of the books are really good. I wouldn't have ever read *Invisible Man* if it weren't for this class and it is one of the best books I have ever read. Re-reading, or at least being sure you understand everything that you read is very critical to success in Mr. Bah's class. You will write many essays and take many quizzes where you need to know more than just what happened in the book, you will need to know the metaphors, motifs and themes of the books. You are taking a literature class, so do the reading and understand it!

Do the homework and essays:

One of the reasons I had such a roller coaster ride this year was because I kept falling behind. The times I did the work when it was assigned, and stayed up to date were the times I was actually most relaxed. I had no extra work hanging over my head, and it was relatively easy to keep from stressing out. Times like these were at the beginning of each semester, and it felt great to stay on top of things. Later in the semester, however, I started to flake on some of my work, and I was stressed out most of the year because of it. Putting things off and making them up later is risky, hard, and not worth all the extra work. Keep up!

Talk to Mr. Bah:

If you ever feel stressed out or need help, Mr. Bah is very helpful. He will let you know what you have to do to do well, and will always try to help you. I have had many teachers that have left me on my own when I was struggling, and luckily Mr. Bah was not one of them. Me being able to catch up both semesters is thanks to him

caring and showing me what I needed to do to get back on track. Talk to Mr. Bah when you need help, because if you show that you care, he will too.

Take Notes, and keep them:

You will take many notes this year. It is crucial you take good notes and be able to find them whenever you need them. I lost many points on essays because I couldn't find my formatting notes for a portion of the year. All the notes you take in this class are important, and will always be helpful, so be sure to keep them safe.

Talk to Your Friends:

Not in class of course! Talk to your classmates after or before class to exchange notes, ideas, and reading. It is super helpful to have multiple minds working together, especially in a class with many essays that require heavy thinking. Discussing essays, reading, and ideas is very helpful, and makes the class much easier and much more fun.

What NOT To Do:

Do NOT save that essay for the night before:

The reason I fell behind so much was because I would leave essays for the night before, and look up at midnight with very little progress. I would convince

myself that I could “do it later” but it would never happen. I had a lot of anxiety and stress this year, and I brought it on myself. Mr. Bah assigns essays and projects so that you’ll have plenty of time to complete it, so be sure you don’t put it off until the last night. Get head starts, stay caught up, and turn all your work in on time.

Do NOT save the reading for the night before:

This is the other reason I fell behind so much. Reading late at night and falling asleep is a guaranteed way to fall behind on the reading, and fail the reading quiz the next day. Reading in small segments everyday is easy, and keeps you from having it piled up at the last minute.

I hope these tips will help you in your year of AP Literature. It is a fun, interesting course with many great books to read and lessons that will stick with you, even when the year is over. Stay caught up and have a great year with Mr. Bah!