All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

From the highly acclaimed, multiple award-winning Anthony Doerr, the beautiful, stunningly ambitious instant New York Times bestseller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. Marie-Laure lives with her father in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where he works as the master of its thousands of locks. When she is six, Marie-Laure goes blind and her father builds a perfect miniature of their neighborhood so she can memorize it by touch and navigate her way home. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure’s reclusive great-uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum’s most valuable and dangerous jewel. In a mining town in Germany, the orphan Werner grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments, a talent that wins him a place at a brutal academy for Hitler Youth, then a special assignment to track the resistance. More and more aware of the human cost of his intelligence, Werner travels through the heart of the war and, finally, into Saint-Malo, where his story and Marie-Laure’s converge. Doerr’s “stunning sense of physical detail and gorgeous metaphors” (San Francisco Chronicle) are dazzling. Deftly interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner, he illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another. Ten years in the writing, All the Light We Cannot See is a magnificent, deeply moving novel from a writer “whose sentences never fail to thrill” (Los Angeles Times). - from the Pulitzer Prize website.

Summer Reading
AP Literature and Composition: Grade 12

AP Lit students will read **three** books this summer. Along with every other student at HHS, you will choose a book from the summer reading list to read and discuss.

In addition, all AP Lit students will read *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr and selected chapters of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster.

First, you will read the assigned chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster, and then apply what you have learned from this text as you read *All the Light We Cannot See*. See assignment details inside.
Part One: Read and annotate Chapters 1, 9, 19, 21 and 25 in How to Read Literature Like a Professor. (We will read the other chapters in the book later in the year).

Part Two: Read All the Light We Cannot See. While reading this novel, you should annotate carefully, marking the novel, and recording page numbers of specific scenes or quotes that you find meaningful.

Part Three: Connecting How to Read Literature Like a Professor to All the Light We Cannot See.

Using quotations from both texts, answer the questions accompanying the quotations below. Your responses should be typed, well-written (i.e. multiple paragraphs) explorations of the message Foster is expressing in How to Read Literature Like a Professor and the message Doerr is expressing in his novel.

1. Every Trip is a Quest (Chapter One):
   “The real reason for a quest is always self-knowledge” (Foster 3). In the novel, what is the quest? Choose a character and explain how he or she gains self-knowledge.

2. It’s More Than Just Rain or Snow (Chapter Nine):
   “It’s never just rain” (Foster 70). Choose a scene where weather or the environment is more than what it seems and explain the significance.

3. Geography Matters (Chapter 19):
   “Geography in literature...can be revelatory of virtually any element in the work. Theme? Sure. Symbol? No problem. Plot? Without a doubt” (Foster 174). Pay special attention to the geography in the novel and explain its importance in the story, the characters, and the message the author is sending to his or her readers.

4. Marked for Greatness (Chapter 21):
   “How many stories do you know in which the hero is different from everyone else in some way?” (Foster 203) Who is the hero in the novel? How do you know he or she is the hero? Is there a visible, physical difference between the hero and other characters?

5. Don’t Read With Your Eyes (Chapter 24):
   “…try to find a reading perspective that allows for sympathy with the historical moment of the story…” (Foster 234). Choose a quote that reflects the overall meaning of the work. What did you glean from this reading experience?

You will share your passages and your exploratory responses in a large-group discussion during the first few days of school. You’ll also be expected to respond to others’ analysis to demonstrate your understanding of the entire text. You do not have to hand in a formal paper, but you should come to class with extensive notes prepared.