

IB LITERATURE SUMMER READING

Purchase and read Thomas Foster's *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*.

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This book will help you understand literature at a deeper level. It discusses elements of literature with reference to many books many of which you may not be familiar, but you have the internet to look up quick summaries to aid your understanding.

This assignment will be due typed and double spaced on August 27, 2018. Trying to do this assignment in a week is impossible. Please start early.

How to Read Literature Like a Professor

by Thomas C. Foster

Introduction: How'd He Do That?

How do memory, symbol, and pattern affect the reading of literature? How does the recognition of patterns make it easier to read complicated literature? Discuss a time when your appreciation of a literary work was enhanced by understanding symbol or pattern. Include the name of the literature and the symbol that helped your understanding of a theme.

Chapter 1 -- Every Trip Is a Quest (Except When It's Not)

List the five aspects of the QUEST and then apply them to something you have read (or viewed in film) in the form used on pages 3-5.

Chapter 5 --Now, Where Have I Seen Her Before?

Define intertextuality. Discuss an example that have helped you in reading specific literary works.

Chapter 9 -- It's Greek to Me

Give two examples of Greek mythology affecting the plot, characters, setting or conflict of a literary work. If you are unfamiliar with Greek mythology, familiarize yourself with the following: Persephone, Icarus, Prometheus, Diana, and Hades. These stories are alluded to frequently in literature. Do NOT use Percy Jackson. Those are literal retellings of Greek gods and myths. You are looking for themes, characters, and motifs from Greek mythology that **appear as something else in literature**. For example, a young person whose hubris causes great misfortune could be an allusion to the story of Icarus. A character who brings knowledge or enlightenment to others at a great cost to themselves is an allusion to Prometheus.

Chapter 11 --...More Than It's Gonna Hurt You: Concerning Violence

Explain the two kinds of violence found in literature. Present examples of each in different literary works. Show how the effects of each type are different.

Chapter 12 -- Is That a Symbol?

What is the difference between symbolism and allegory? What tools must we use to bring something of ourselves into analyzing symbols?

Chapter 13 -- It's All Political

Assume that Foster is right and "it is all political." Use his criteria to show that one of the major works you've read is political.

Chapter 14 -- Yes, She's a Christ Figure, Too

Apply the criteria on page 119 to a major character in a significant literary work. Try to choose a character that will have many matches. This is a particularly apt tool for analyzing film -- for example, *Star Wars*, *Cool Hand Luke*, *Excalibur*, *Malcolm X*, *Braveheart*, *Spartacus*, *Gladiator* and *Ben-Hur*. Please do not use "Aslan" from *Lion, Witch, and Wardrobe*. That's too obvious. It's a children's book, so the reference is so thinly veiled that it's really less of an allusion and more of just a straight up retelling of the resurrection story.

Chapter 18 -- If She Comes Up, It's Baptism

Think of a "baptism scene" from a significant literary work. How was the character different after the experience? Discuss. You may use an anti-baptism instead. Note that literary baptisms don't always involve water. If you've seen *The Shawshank Redemption*, you'll see Andy escape prison, crawl through a river of raw sewage, and emerge a free man with arms held to heaven. He was "baptized" in a toilet drainage pipe.

Chapter 19 -- Geography Matters...

Discuss at least four different aspects of a specific literary work that Foster would classify under "geography."

Chapter 21 -- Marked for Greatness

Figure out Harry Potter's scar. If you aren't familiar with Harry Potter, select another character with a physical imperfection and analyze its implications for characterization.

Chapter 24 -- ...And Rarely Just Illness

Recall two characters who died of a disease in a literary work. Consider how these deaths reflect the "principles governing the use of disease in literature" (215-217). Discuss the effectiveness of the death as related to plot, theme, or symbolism.

Chapter 25 -- Don't Read with Your Eyes

After reading Chapter 25, choose a scene or episode from a novel, play or epic written before the twentieth century. Contrast how it could be viewed by a reader from the twenty-first century with how it might be viewed by a contemporary reader. Focus on specific assumptions that the author makes, assumptions that would not make it in this century.

Chapter 26 -- Is He Serious? And Other Ironies

Select an ironic literary work and explain the nature of the irony in the work.