



# How to Read Literature Like a Professor

A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines

Written by Thomas C Foster Revised Edition

“We - as readers or writers, tellers or listeners - understand each other, we share knowledge of the structures of our myths, we comprehend the logic of symbols, largely because we have access to the same swirl of story. We have only to reach out into the air and pluck a piece of it.”

## Assignment

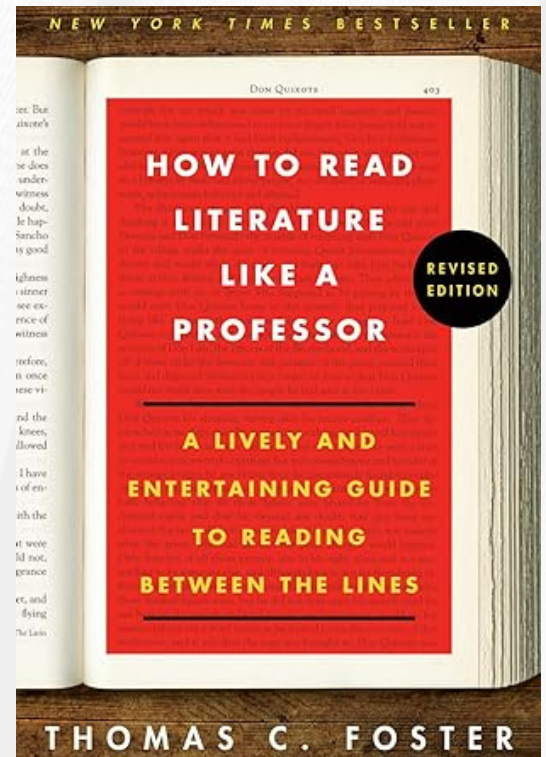
Over the summer, all AP Lit students are required to read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* and a research novel selected from the list. Foster’s book will not only help you to understand your chosen novel, but it will also be useful for our study of literature throughout the year. Purchase your own copies of all summer reading works as part of the assignment to annotate as you read. On September 3-4, while you are completing an in-class writing assignment, I will check your annotated books. One of the first grades you receive for AP English Literature and Composition will be for completing annotation of the books you read over the summer.

[A grade of 100: The text is extensively highlighted or underlined with many margin notes in addition to shorthand notations. The annotations demonstrate that the student has carefully read and considered the text’s meaning. The margin notes serve as an abbreviated outline of what the text says and what the reader thinks about it.]

## Due in Class September 3 & 4:

Choose four chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* that apply to your research novel. Then, write a minimum of a one page analysis for each HTRLLAP chapter of your book using the guidelines of the chapters. For example, if you choose the chapter “Is That a Symbol” or “Geography Matters...” I will receive a one page analysis of symbols in your research novel or one page analyzing the role geography plays in the novel. Include at least two specific textual examples (at least one of which is a direct quote from the novel) that show how the author is using the technique or idea discussed in Foster’s chapter. Use MLA parenthetical citation to indicate where in the novel you found your examples. I’m not interested in a recap of SparkNotes, Shmoop, etc., so don’t visit the sites if you don’t want your thinking tainted.

\*If novels cannot be purchased students may check out from the library or read online versions and keep handwritten annotations to be submitted for grading.



### Summer Assignment Recap:

1. How to Read Literature Like a Professor
  - o Read the book
  - o Annotate as you are reading (graded)
2. Research novel
  - o Choose a novel from the following list
  - o Read the novel
  - o Annotate as you are reading (graded)
  - o Analyze using 4 different chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*.
    - Each analysis will be a minimum of 1 typed page
    - Each analysis will include at least 2 specific textual references to support your position (at least one of which is a direct quote from the novel)
    - You will complete an in-class essay for your research novel on the first day of class.

## Research Novel List

- Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe
- Brave New World, Aldos Huxley
- Invisible Man, Ralph Ellison
- The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, Diaz
- Wuthering Heights, Emily Bronte
- The Godfather, Mario Puzo
- The Merchant of Venice, Shakespeare
- A Raisin in the Sun, Lorraine Hansberry
- The Kite Runner, Kahled Hosseini
- Little Fires Everywhere, Celeste Ng