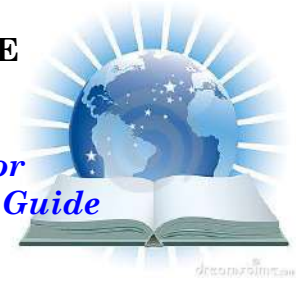


LGHS HONORS WORLD LITERATURE
Summer Reading Assignment

How to Read Literature Like a Professor
Revised Edition: A Lively and Entertaining Guide
to Reading Between the Lines

Thomas C. Foster



In Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Red-Headed League," Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson both observe Jabez Wilson carefully, yet their differing interpretations of the same details reveal the difference between a "good reader" and a "bad reader." Watson can only describe what he sees; Holmes has the knowledge to interpret what he sees, to draw conclusions, and to solve the mystery.

Understanding literature need no longer be a mystery. Thomas Foster's book will help transform you from a naïve, sometimes confused Watson to an insightful, literary Holmes. Professors and other informed readers see symbols, archetypes, and patterns because those things are there – if you have learned to look for them. As Foster says, you learn to recognize the literary conventions the "same way you get to Carnegie Hall. Practice" (xiv).

READING: For this assignment, you will read the entire text. It would be wise to create a schedule wherein each day you read a chapter. I would also suggest that you take notes on the chapters so that you can refer back to them; they will help you study.

ASSESSMENT: You will complete an in-class assessment (no notes) in the second week of school.

WRITING: Select **three** of the following writing tasks to complete. **Due August 7, 2015.**

Chapter 6: ...Or the Bible

In a single paragraph essay, discuss a work that Foster does not mention, one that alludes to or reflects the Bible. To start, you can look at the example of the "two great jars." Be creative and imaginative in these connections. If you cannot think of a literary work, consider "Araby" by James Joyce. You can find the complete text online.

Chapter 12: Is That a Symbol?

In a single paragraph essay, investigate symbolism in a text of your choice. If you struggle to find a text, consider "The Pit and the Pendulum" by Edgar Allan Poe; you can find the complete text online.

Chapter 13: It's All Political

Assume that Foster is correct and that "it is all political." In a single paragraph essay, use his criteria to show that one of the major works assigned to you as a freshman is a political text.

Chapter 19: Geography Matters...

In a single paragraph essay, discuss a specific literary work in which the "geography matters." In other words, a change in setting would make it completely different; meaning the plot, characters, theme, etc. would be significantly changed. Consider "Distillation" by Hugo Martinez-Serros for your textual reference.

Chapter 20: ...So Does Season

Find a poem that mentions a specific season. In a single paragraph essay, discuss how the poet uses the season in a meaningful, traditional, or unusual way. Submit a copy of the poem with your analysis.

WRITING EXPECTATIONS

Use MLA formatting. The Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) is a comprehensive resource for MLA style writing. The website address is <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>.

SINGLE PARAGRAPH ESSAY

- ✗ Begin with a thesis statement that includes the title, author, and genre of the chosen work.
- ✗ Make an assertion... a bold point/statement about the topic or the literature.
- ✗ Use a supporting detail or example from the text to support your bold point/statement.
- ✗ Provide an explanation or interpretation of the example's importance.
- ✗ Explain your thought process even further.
- ✗ Make another assertion... another bold point/statement about the topic or the literature.
- ✗ Use a supporting detail or example from the text to support your second bold statement.
- ✗ Provide an explanation or interpretation of the example's importance.
- ✗ Explain your thought process even further.
- ✗ Write a concluding statement that wraps up your position. Remember... this is **not** just a repeat of your thesis statement.

How can you ensure that you will not be penalized for writing errors?

- ✗ Avoid abbreviations and contractions. This is formal writing, so please treat it formally.
- ✗ Proofread for commonly confused homonyms such as... their and there or to and too.
- ✗ Pay special attention to pronouns; their antecedents must be stated.
- ✗ Vary your sentence structure. Your mastery of compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences should shine through.
- ✗ Remember to capitalize and punctuate titles properly... "Short Stories" *Novels* and *Films*.
- ✗ When referring to the author, use the writer's last name. Use "Foster," not "he", and **NEVER** write "Thomas."
- ✗ Typed work is much more professional, and it is much easier to revise; therefore, a typed product is preferred. However, if you have no computer or an alternative for typing your work, please be sure that your writing is legible and written in blue or black ink.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- ✗ Create a cover sheet. You may decorate the cover; however, decoration is optional. Include an MLA-formatted heading. This information, and all of the writing assignments, should be double-spaced.

Jane Doe

Dr. Collie

Honors World Literature

7 August 2015

- ✗ Format each assignment with a header at the top, right of the paper... your last name and the page number... **Doe 2**.
- ✗ Use section headings for each of your 3 writing assignments. The section heading should be the title of the chapter about which you are writing... **Chapter 8: It's Greek to Me**.
- ✗ For each textual paraphrase or quote, include an in-text citation... **Foster 25**.
- ✗ Include a Works Cited for all of the short stories, poems, novels, and/or films that you use.

If you have questions over the summer, please feel free to email me at acollie@henry.k12.ga.us.