

AP English Literature and Composition

La Salle High School

Mr. Aultman

Summer 2022 Assignment

Step 1: Acquire and read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster. There are multiple copies available via the Cincinnati Library and/or it is available on Amazon for under ten dollars.

Step 2: Select a work of fiction. It can be any age-appropriate novel of your choosing.

Step 3: While reading your selected fiction, select at least 5 of the following questions/prompts to respond to with a thoughtfully composed analysis. Each response should be at least a couple of paragraphs, and all components of the question/prompt should be addressed. These questions/prompts ask you to apply the concepts in Foster's book to your chosen novel.

Important note: All work must be YOUR OWN IDEAS. Do not search the internet for answers or work together with another student.

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 how understanding symbol or pattern has helped you appreciate your student choice novel.

Chapter 1 – Every Trip Is a Quest (Except When It's Not) List the five aspects of the QUEST and then apply them to your student choice novel in the form used on pages 3-5.

Chapter 2 – Nice to Eat with You: Acts of Communion Choose a meal from your student choice novel and apply the ideas of Chapter 2 to this literary depiction.

Chapter 3 – Nice to Eat You: Acts of Vampires What are the essentials of the Vampire story? Apply this to your student choice novel.

Chapter 5 (Chapter 4 Revised 2013 ed.) – Now, Where Have I Seen Her Before? Define intertextuality. Discuss three examples that have helped you in reading your student choice novel.

Chapter 6 (Chapter 5 Revised 2013 ed.) – When in Doubt, It's from Shakespeare... Discuss how your student choice novel alludes to or reflects Shakespeare. Show how the author uses this connection thematically. Foster shows how Fugard reflects Shakespeare through both plot and theme. In your discussion, focus on theme.

Chapter 8 (Chapter 7 Revised 2013 ed.) – Hansel and Gretel Think of how your student choice novel reflects a fairy tale. Discuss the parallels. Does it create irony or deepen appreciation?

Chapter 10 (Chapter 9 Revised 2013 ed.) – It’s More Than Just Rain or Snow Discuss the importance of weather in your student choice novel, not in terms of plot.

Chapter 10 Revised 2013 ed. — Never Stand Next to the Hero What is the “surrogacy phenomenon” and what purpose does it serve in a narrative? Give an example from your student choice novel and explain how it fits the surrogacy phenomenon.

Chapter 11 – ...More Than It’s Gonna Hurt You: Concerning Violence Present examples of the two kinds of violence found in your student choice novel. Show how the effects are different.

Chapter 14 – Yes, She’s a Christ Figure, Too Apply the criteria on page 119 to a major character in your student choice novel. Try to choose a character that will have many matches.

Chapter 15 – Flights of Fancy Explain how flight signifies escape or freedom in your student choice novel. Explain in detail.

Chapter 18 – If She Comes Up, It’s Baptism Think of a "baptism scene" from your student choice novel. How was the character different after the experience? Discuss.

Chapter 19 – Geography Matters... Discuss at least four different aspects of your student choice novel that Foster would classify under "geography."

Chapter 21 – Marked for Greatness Select a character with a physical imperfection from your student choice novel and analyze its implications for characterization.

Chapter 23 – It’s Never Just Heart Disease... & Chapter 24 – ...And Rarely Just Illness (Combined in Chapter 23 Revised 2013 ed.) Select a character who dies of disease in your student choice novel. 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 (Chapter 24 Revised 2013 ed.) – Don’t Read with Your Eyes After reading Chapter 25, choose a scene or episode from your student choice novel. Contrast how it could be viewed by a reader from the time when it was published with how it might be viewed by a contemporary reader. Focus on specific assumptions that the author makes, assumptions that would not be made in this century.

Chapter 25 (Revised 2013 ed.)— It’s My Symbol and I’ll Cry If I Want To What are some strategies for dealing with non-standard or “private” symbols in texts? Give an example of odd or uncommon symbolism from your student choice novel. How did you figure out the meaning of the text and the symbolism?

Chapter 26 – Is He Serious? And Other Ironies Explain the multi-vocal nature of the irony in your student choice novel.