

READING: *How to Read Literature like a Professor Revised Edition: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading between the Lines* (2014 edition!) by Thomas C. Foster.

WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THESE QUESTIONS AND APPLYING OUR SUMMER READINGS TO YOUR RESPONSES. PLEASE HAVE YOUR NOTES AND BOOK (WITH TABS) – DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED.

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, using references to the text.

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 the form used on pages 4-5.

Chapter 2 -- Nice to Eat with You: Acts of Communion

Choose a meal from a literary work 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 a literary work you have read or viewed.

Chapter 4 --Now, Where Have I Seen Her Before?

Define intertextuality. Discuss three examples that have helped you in reading specific works.

Chapter 5 -- When in Doubt, It's from Shakespeare...

Discuss a work that you are familiar with that alludes to or reflects Shakespeare. Show how the author uses this connection thematically. Read pages 39-41 carefully. In these pages, Foster shows how Athol Fugard reflects Shakespeare through both plot and theme. In your discussion, focus on theme.

Chapter 6 -- ...Or the Bible

Read "Araby" (available at <http://fiction.eserver.org/short/araby.html>), or in your textbook. Discuss Biblical allusions that Foster does not mention. Look at the example of the "two great jars." Be creative and imaginative in these connections.

Chapter 7 -- Hanseldee and Greteldum

Think of a work of literature that reflects a fairy tale. Discuss the parallels. Does it create irony or deepen appreciation?

Chapter 8 -- It's Greek to Me

Write a free verse poem derived or inspired by characters or situations from Greek mythology.

Chapter 9 -- It's More Than Just Rain or Snow

Discuss the importance of weather in a specific literary work, not in terms of plot.

Chapter 10 – Never Stand Next to the Hero

Present examples, from two books you've read of characters that die so that the hero/heroine might live or be better – remember not to use examples Foster used, such as Mercutio or Patroclus.

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

Present examples of the two kinds of violence found in literature. Show how the effects are different.

Chapter 12 -- Is That a Symbol?

Use the process described on page 112-113 and investigate the symbolism of the fence in "Araby" (see link above).

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 assigned to you as a student in high school is political.

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

Apply the criteria on page 126 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*, or choice.

Chapter 15 -- Flights of Fancy

Select a literary work in which flight signifies escape or freedom. Explain in detail.

Chapter 16 -- It's All About Sex... & Chapter 17 -- ...Except the Sex

OK ...the sex chapters. The key idea from these chapters is that "scenes in which sex is coded rather than explicit can work at multiple levels and sometimes be more intense than literal depictions"(150). In other words, sex is often **suggested** with much more art and effort than it is **described**, and, if the author is doing his/her job, it reflects and creates theme or character. Choose a novel or movie in which sex is **suggested**, but not described. Discuss how the relationship is suggested and how this implication affects the theme or characterizes.

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

Think of a "baptism scene" from a significant literary work. How is the character different after the experience? Discuss.

Chapter 19 -- Geography Matters...

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

Chapter 20 -- ...So Does Season

Find a poem that mentions a specific season. Then discuss how the poet uses the season in a meaningful, traditional, or unusual way. (Submit a copy of the poem with your analysis.)

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 22 -- He's Blind for a Reason, You Know

No option here.

Chapter 23 -- It's Never Just Heart Disease...And Rarely Just Illness

No option here.

Chapter 24 -- Don't Read with Your Eyes

After reading Chapter 24, choose a scene or episode from a novel, play or epic written before the twentieth century. Contrast how [a scene or episode] 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 that would not make it in this century.

Chapter 25 – It's My Symbol and I'll Cry If I Want To

Foster has presented us with the conceit of the flea in John Donne's so-named poem and rattled on about Yeats' fondness for gyres which seem to have an inside meaning that take work to uncover. Do you have a poet or author who uses an odd word/phrase that might be over-looked for its symbolic meaning? Give some explanation here-- both of the author and of the work(s) in which the symbol appears.

Chapter 26 -- Is He Serious? And Other Ironies

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

Chapter 27 -- A Test Case – This will be an individual essay...

