

**Honors English 11 Summer Reading Assignment
(Updated April 2024)**

Mr. B. Davis

You will be reading a portion of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*; by Thomas C. Foster, and *three* short stories linked below.

Part 1:

Begin by reading the following chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*; by Thomas C. Foster.

Take notes along the way, for you will use these concepts throughout the year AND you will take a test on it the second day of school.

You might have read the first and fifth chapters for Honors English 10. If not, read them as well.

1. Every Trip is a Quest
 2. Nice to Eat with You: Acts of Communion
 3. Nice to Eat You: Acts of Vampires
 5. When in Doubt, It's from Shakespeare
 7. ...Or the Bible
 8. Hansel and Gretel
 9. It's Greek to Me
- Read Interlude
12. Is that a symbol?
 14. Yes, She's a Christ Figure, Too
 18. If She Comes Up, It's Baptism
 19. Geography Matters...

Part 2:

Read the following short stories: "[Winter Dreams](#)" by F. Scott Fitzgerald, "[Good Country People](#)" by Flannery O'Connor, and "[Food that Pleases, Food to Take Home](#)" by Anthony Grooms.

You will take a test on the second day of school on the stories and the book. (You will have a graded class discussion on the stories on the third day of school.)

Read each story twice! And thoroughly annotate them for the following:

- aspects of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* that appear in the novel
- elements of characterization that stand out to you
- elements of setting that stand out to you
- characterization that stands out to you
- literary devices that stand out to you
- dreams/aspirations of the characters that stand out to you
- obstacles that stand in the way that stand out to you

I want YOU to think through the stories. Don't go searching online. I know how Juniors think.

Part 3:

On the first day of school you will turn in an essay in which you respond to the following prompt:

Pretend I am a 9th grader who likes literature. I am so interested in it that I read classics on my own (like *these short stories*); however, I think English teachers are full of it. I don't believe in all of this English teacher stuff. Now that you have read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, you have some insight into how literary scholars think. Your job is to convince me that the things English teachers say have merit. Present me with no fewer than three elements that show up in *TWO* of the short stories.

Don't forget to cite references to the text parenthetically.

Don't forget to have topic sentences that prepare the reader for the content of its paragraph. (Every TS should be an argument).

Don't use first or second person pronouns.

An MLA heading should be in your top-left corner.

Your last name and page number should be in the top right corner of every page.

You should have a clever title, and your introduction should be interesting. (Make me want to read it at 1 a.m.)

One-inch margins

Times New Roman font (12 pt.) for everything on the page.

Check for grammar mistakes.

So just to be clear, you will need to:

- Read the assigned chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*
 - Take notes along the way
- Read ALL THREE OF THE SHORT STORIES TWICE.
 - Annotate for the elements listed above
- Write the essay, which will be PRINTED and turned in on the first day of school
- 2nd day of school: Take a test on *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* **and** the short stories
- 3rd day of school: graded class discussion on the short stories. You may use your annotated short stories