

Dual Credit & Advanced Placement English IV Summer Assignment

Though these are very different courses, they are both college-level – hence the same foundation. Enjoy your literary exploration and your summer! Please bring your assignment and a three-subject spiral with pocketed dividers on the first day of school. We're ready for a great year.

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Read, meaningfully mark/annotate, and make notes in **Thomas C. Foster's *How to Read Literature Like a Professor***. Then, compose paragraph answers to each of the writing prompts in this assignment, beginning with the introduction.

The notes and markings you make in the book are for your personal benefit and *will not* be graded. However, your **typed prompts with paragraph answers will be turned in for a test grade on the first day of school: MLA heading and format, Times New Roman .12 font, three prompts and corresponding paragraph answers per page, for a total of nine pages.**

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.

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 3-5.

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. [Look at works that have a vampire-like character, not a vampire story, so not the *Twilight* series.]

Chapter 4 -- If It's Square, It's a Sonnet

Choice Write/Reflect

Chapter 5 --Now, Where Have I Seen Her Before?

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

Chapter 6 -- 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 44-46 carefully. In these pages, Foster shows how Fugard reflects Shakespeare through both plot and theme. In your discussion, focus on theme.

Chapter 7 -- ...Or the Bible

I suggest you read the short story "Araby" by James Joyce (available online). Discuss biblical allusions that Foster does not mention. Look at the example of the "two great jars." Be creative and imaginative in these connections. You may use a title other than "Araby" if you wish.

Chapter 8 -- Hansel and Gretel

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

Chapter 9 -- It's Greek to Me

Choice Write/Reflect

Chapter 10 -- It's More Than Just Rain or Snow

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

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

Choice Write/Reflect

Chapter 12 -- Is That a Symbol?

Use the process described on page 106, and investigate the symbolism of the fence in "Araby." (Mangan's sister stands behind it.) Or, you may use another work.

Chapter 13 -- It's All Political

Assume that Foster is right and "it is all political." Use his criteria to show that *a work you studied during your junior year* is political.

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

Apply the criteria on page 119 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*, *Braveheart*, *Matrix Trilogy*, *Chronicles of Narnia*, and *The Lord of the Rings*.

Chapter 15 -- Flights of Fancy - Choice Write/Reflect**Chapter 16 -- It's All About Sex...**

Choice Write/Reflect

Chapter 17 -- ...Except Sex. - Choice Write/Reflect**Chapter 18 -- If She Comes Up, It's Baptism**

Think of a "baptism scene" from a significant literary work. How was 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 - Choice Write/Reflect**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 - Choice Write/Reflect**Chapter 23 -- It's Never Just Heart Disease...**

Choice Write/Reflect

Chapter 24 -- ...And Rarely Just Illness

Recall two characters who died of a disease in a literary work. 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 -- Don't Read with Your Eyes

After reading Chapter 25, choose a scene or episode from a novel, play, or epic written before the twentieth century. Contrast how it could be viewed by a reader from a previous century with how it might be viewed by a contemporary reader. Focus on specific assumptions that the author makes, assumptions that would not make it in this century.

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.
