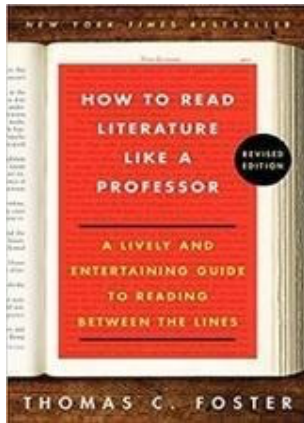




AP Literature and Composition: 12th Grade Summer Reading Guidelines

First, you will read selected chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster. Described as “a lively and entertaining guide for reading between the lines,” this book will teach you to read like an English teacher. You will sharpen your analytical skills for identifying and understanding symbols, themes, and many other narrative devices.

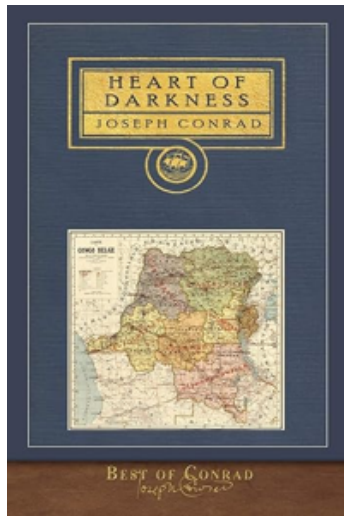


ISBN-13: 978-0062326522

As you read *How to Read Literature*, focus especially on the following chapters: 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 23, 24, 25, and 26. Write a summary for each of the listed chapters. Each paragraph should begin by stating the chapter title, then summarize the main idea(s) of the chapter, then provide examples of the main idea(s) from classic works of literature that you have read. For example, in the discussion of symbolism in Chapter 12 of *How to Read*, use “Is That a Symbol?” as your paragraph’s title, then write about the difference between a symbol and an allegory. Finally, illustrate these ideas about symbolism and allegory with an example(s) from books you have read that employ either allegory (like the meaning of the “A” in *The Scarlet Letter*) or symbolism (like the green light at the end of Daisy’s dock in *The Great Gatsby*).

You should type this document, print it, **and turn it in on August 13th**. It will count for 50% of your summer reading test grade.

N.b.: *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* is used in a lot of AP classes all over the country. I am aware that AI is happy to do all your thinking and writing for you, but I encourage you to think your own thoughts and do your own work. **If your first thought is “Where can I find this information on the internet?” and your second thought is “What prompt do I need to feed ChatGPT to get the results that this assignment requires?” then you may not be suited to AP coursework.**



Second, you are also expected to read *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad. Please purchase the Seawolf Press edition (ISBN-10: 1952433908 and ISBN-13: 978-1952433900). **(It's crucial that you buy this edition because I will be referring to specific pages, and I cannot spare the time it would take for each of us to locate the same page in a variety of editions!)**

Before reading this novel, you should look at a Slideshow on Modernism and *Heart of Darkness* posted at a Google Classroom site called "AP Senior English Summer Reading." (I will be inviting you to join this class by providing you with a link as soon as Mrs. Westbrook gives me the names of students enrolled in AP Senior

English.)

Since this year will prepare you not only for the AP exam in English Literature but for university-level classes as well, you will need to increase your practice of "close reading," which involves reading with a pen or pencil in hand. By now you should be well equipped to determine how an author uses literary devices such as symbolism, conflict, parallel structure, setting, and figurative language to communicate the theme(s) of his work.

While reading this novel, you should annotate (highlight and make notes in the margins of your book) for the following:

- words and phrases that stand out to you
- important scenes or key sections of dialogue
- character descriptions, motivations, and flaws
- key conflicts that characters face
- **sections that are confusing for you and any questions you have**
- inferences you make while reading
- **connections you make to other texts, films, or to *How to Read Literature Like a Professor***
- **connections you make to your own life**
- literary devices (flashbacks, foreshadowing, symbols, irony, etc.)
- figurative language (allusions, alliteration, metaphors, similes, etc.)

On Thursday, August 13th, you will have a quiz on the plot of this novel and your *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* assignment is due, and on the following Thursday, August 20th, you will have a test that will cover class discussion of this novel as well as the slideshow. You will not be allowed to use notes or the book itself on the test. I encourage you to review your annotations to prepare for the test. The Summer Reading Compliance form will also be due this day as well and will count for 11 points of your grade.

I look forward to sharing this class with you!

Mrs. Slimp