

Summer Reading Challenge: Honors/AP English (26-27)

This summer's reading assignments will challenge you to think critically, analyze literature more deeply, and explore the idea of **self-actualization**, understanding your purpose, values, and potential.

Your Tasks

- Read two assigned books
- Complete two writing assignments
- Submit typed responses on Turnitin.com
 - **Assignment 1 due:** June 30 @ 11:59 PM
 - **Assignment 2 due:** July 31 @ 11:59 PM

These assignments are weighted at 30% of your grade. Missing either one may result in failing the semester.

Part I: *How to Read Literature Like a Professor [Third Edition]: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Understanding Literature, from The Great Gatsby to The Hate You Give*. Paperback – November 5, 2024
By Thomas C. Foster. (You need this specific edition – the older editions are different, and you may be unable to complete the assignment)

Due: June 30 @ 11:59 PM on Turnitin.com

Points: 75

About the Book

Foster teaches us to read like a professor, uncovering deeper meanings in literature through symbols, patterns, and themes. Learn how rain can signal cleansing, how a trip might be a quest, and why a shared meal often means more than just food.

What to Do

- Preview the questions before you begin reading.
- Highlight and annotate as you read.
- Use **PEA format with textual evidence (1 piece)**.
- Provide **MLA in-text citations** (use OWL at Purdue for reference).
- **Do NOT write an essay.** Number and answer each question separately.

Comprehension Questions (I know this seems like a lot – don't get overwhelmed. Pace yourself and take it one step at a time. Use the Chapter headings to guide – chapters differ per edition).

'How'd He Do That?' Introduction

1. Why does Foster argue that reading like a professor is different from reading like a layperson?
What specific skills does he say literary readers use?

"Every Trip Is a Quest" (Except When it's Not) – Chapter 1

2. What are the five components of a quest? Why aren't all quests straightforward adventures?
How can a simple trip still count as a quest?

YOU DO NOT NEED TO READ CHAPTERS 2-3

“Now Where Have I Seen Her Before?” – Chapter 4

3. What does Foster mean by “no work is completely original”? Why should readers recognize references to other texts?

“When in Doubt, It’s from Shakespeare... or the Bible” – Chapter 5-6

4. How and why do authors borrow from Shakespeare, and what impact can this have on a modern reader’s interpretation?
5. How can Biblical references in literature add deeper meaning, even if the story isn’t religious?

YOU DO NOT NEED TO READ CHAPTER 7

“It’s Greek to Me” – Chapter 8

6. Why do authors draw on myths, especially Greek mythology, and what kinds of meaning does this add?

“It’s More Than Just Rain or Snow” – Chapter 9

7. How can weather be symbolic in literature, and what are some of the meanings Foster suggests rain, snow, and storms might carry?

“Never Stand Next to the Hero” – Chapter 10

8. Why does Foster warn readers about secondary characters who are close to the hero, and how does their fate often serve to develop the hero’s journey?

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO READ CHAPTER 11

“Is That a Symbol?” – Chapter 12

9. How is a symbol different from an allegory? Why might readers interpret symbols differently?

“It’s All Political” – Chapter 13

10. What does Foster mean by saying literature is political? How can a story reflect the political/social issues of its time?

“Flights of Fancy” – Chapter 14

11. How is flight often used symbolically in literature, and what are some examples of its deeper meanings?

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO READ CHAPTERS 15 & 16

“If She Comes Up, It’s Baptism” – Chapter 17

12. What does Foster say about water-related events (drowning, swimming, rain) and how they symbolize change or rebirth?

“Geography Matters...” Chapter 18

13. How can setting and geography influence a story’s meaning and reflect character development?

“Marked for Greatness” – Chapter 19

14. What does Foster mean by characters being “marked for greatness,” and why are physical marks or imperfections important?

“He’s Blind for a Reason, You Know” – Chapter 20

15. Why might an author make a character blind (or give them another disability), and how does that serve the story?

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO READ CHAPTER 21

“The Road Goes Ever On” – Chapter 22

16. How does Foster explain the symbolic significance of roads and journeys in literature, and what deeper meanings can a road represent beyond physical travel?

“Is He Serious? And Other Ironies” – Chapter 23

17. How does irony work in literature, and why is it often more complex than it seems at first?

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO READ THE REST OF THE BOOK

Part II: Fahrenheit 451. by Ray Bradbury

Due: July 31 @ 11:59 PM on Turnitin.com

Points: 75

About the Book

In a world where books are banned and burned, fireman Guy Montag begins to question his role in society and the meaning of knowledge, individuality, and freedom.

What to Do

- Read the questions before starting.
- Annotate and highlight important quotes while reading.
- Use **PEA format** (Point, Evidence, Analysis) in your responses.
- Provide **MLA in-text citations** (use OWL at Purdue for reference).
- Each answer must be **8–10 sentences** with **2 pieces of textual evidence**.
- **Do NOT write an essay.** Number and answer questions separately.

Literary Analysis Questions

1. **Conflict**
 - What is the central moral or ethical issue? How is the main conflict (internal or external) resolved?
2. **Theme**
 - Identify two key themes. How does Bradbury develop them through characters or setting?
3. **Symbolism**
 - What does fire symbolize? How does its meaning evolve throughout the novel?
4. **Tone**
 - What tone does Bradbury use to depict Montag’s society? Identify two passages that show this tone and explain its effect.

5. **Figurative Language**

- Quote one example (simile, metaphor, personification, etc.) Explain how it contributes to the novel's mood, tone, or theme.

6. **Characterization**

- How does Montag transform throughout the story? What events or characters drive this change?

Assignment Submission Instructions

Save your file as:

LASTNAME_BOOKTITLE (e.g., Cabrera_Night)

Submit via: www.turnitin.com

- **Class ID:** 53154464
- **Enrollment Key:** lancers
- Register **immediately** to avoid submission issues.

Submission Tips

- Accepted file types: **.doc, .docx, .pdf only**
- Save and close the document before uploading
- If the file opens in a new window, it won't submit correctly
- **Do not email your assignment**, it will not be graded
- If you have issues, contact **Turnitin tech support**

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Plagiarism = using someone else's words or ideas and claiming them as your own. If you plagiarize, you will earn a **ZERO** and may be **removed from the class**.

Examples of plagiarism include:

1. Turning in someone else's paper
2. Copying a friend's answers
3. Failing to cite your sources
4. Quoting an author without using quotation marks
5. Submitting duplicate or identical answers
6. Using AI tools (like ChatGPT) to write your work

A Turnitin similarity score of **30% or higher** will be flagged as plagiarism. I also use **four AI detectors**. Don't test it—I'll know.

In-text Citation

(Foster 25) – No comma, no period, no #, no page/pg, just the author's LAST NAME and the number of the page, inside parenthesis.

In Chapter 12, it reads, "XXXXXX" (Foster 22)

Foster writes "XXXXXX" (22)