

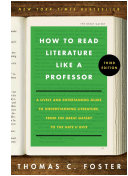


Honors English 10
2026 Summer Reading Assignment
100 points

Read and respond to the two required texts:

Foster, Thomas C. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, 3rd ed. Harper Perennial, 2024.

This is a book about how to read books. Did you know that if a character is blind, they are likely also wise? That if it's raining, snowing, or blistering hot, that weather is almost certainly symbolic? Foster unlocks the sometimes mysterious patterns that scholars look for in literature. We will apply Foster's ideas to *Lord of the Flies* and to other texts we read this year. **I recommend reading this second, after *Lord of the Flies*.**



Golding, William. *Lord of the Flies*. Penguin Books, 2003.

This is a dark spin on a survival story: a group of schoolboys are stranded on a deserted island when their plane goes down during an unnamed world war. As they struggle to survive, we might ask ourselves what is more dangerous -- the hostile island or the boys themselves? Look for Golding's clever use of language, both figurative and literal, as well as rich symbolism throughout. **I recommend reading this first.**



Required notes: 60 points

Use one of the following note-taking formats. You do not have to use the same option for both books, but you do need to do one or the other for each book.

Option 1: Dialectical Journal: 2-column notes with direct quotes on the left and your response (what you noticed, what it suggests, why it matters, connections, questions, etc.) on the right. I recommend doing these in the first section of a 3-subject notebook. Cite page numbers.

Quote	Response
"All round him the long scar smashed into the jungle was a bath of heat" (7).	Calling the mark left by the plane a "scar" suggests harm to the island. The jungle seems hostile here.

Option 2: Annotations: mark words, phrases, lines, or passages. Next to them, write what you noticed. Show your thinking by writing something, don't just highlight. You may use sticky notes to add your comments.

Guidelines for note-taking:

- for *Lord of the Flies*: 3+ dialectical journal entries or annotations per chapter.
- For *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*: For each chapter, identify the literary pattern, symbol, archetype, or idea Foster discusses. What books, movies, shows, or other texts can you connect to this chapter?

Three paragraphs (not an essay!): 40 points

In *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, Thomas C. Foster argues that literature gains meaning through recognizable patterns, symbols, and archetypes. While Foster cites many works to illustrate his points, *Lord of the Flies* is never mentioned. Correct this oversight! Choose three chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* that can be meaningfully applied to *Lord of the Flies*. For each chapter you chose, write a paragraph applying it to *Lord of the Flies*.

This is not a full essay; rather, you are writing three well-developed, analytical paragraphs. Each paragraph should be approximately 8–12 sentences and should include textual evidence and analysis. In each paragraph, include:

- **What chapter of Foster did you choose, and what specific claim does Foster make in that chapter?** Show that you understand the pattern, symbol, or archetype Foster is identifying.
- **How does Golding illustrate that idea in *Lord of the Flies*?**
Use one or more direct quotations from the novel and explain how they connect to Foster's argument.
- **How does Golding's use of this literary pattern, symbol, or archetype develop a theme, character, conflict, or idea in the novel?** For example, does it shed light on a particular character's nature? Does it reveal a truth that the book is pointing to?
- **MLA-style in-text page citations for both books.** Include author and page number when citing a text.

Finally, include an MLA-formatted Works Cited (you can steal my citations above if you used these copies, but if you used other editions be sure your citations are accurate).

Summer work is due on the first day of class. If you have questions over the summer, email me at strainic@selschools.org