

How to Read Literature like a Professor

by Thomas C. Foster (2014, Revised Edition)

Outline/Notes Assignment

Introduction: This is a reference book, not a novel. It is filled with information that will help you throughout your year in AP English AND BEYOND! The insights you read in this book will help you ANALYZE the literature you read. It will also help you analyze movies, history, and life in general. Thus, taking good notes will benefit you both during and after reading this book. As you read each chapter, keep notes on this sheet. **You may add additional sheets of paper if necessary.**

Directions: The titles of every chapter are included. Under “Explanation” write notes about how/what this chapter is teaching you about how to analyze literature. For “Example,” write down a book or movie that you are familiar with and what part applies to this analysis. The first chapter is done for you – read it to see how the notes match up. **You must HANDWRITE this outline.**

Chapter 1: Every Trip is a Quest (Except When it's Not)

Explanation:

- Many stories follow the Quest mode/archetype
- The real reason for a quest is always self-knowledge (Foster 3)
- Parts of a Quest (the archetype – how you know if the story is a Quest): quester, a place to go, a reason to go, challenges & traits along the way, the REAL reason to go (Foster 4-5).

Example: Shrek (the 1st movie)

Shrek is a quester going to rescue the princess, with his sidekick Donkey. He faces trials like the rickety bridge and the dragon, and his real quest is his journey to accept himself and love himself.

(*Star Wars*, *The Odyssey*, the story of Jesus Christ, and *Finding Nemo* are also quests)

Chapter 2: Nice to Eat with You: Acts of Communion

Explanation:

Example:

Chapter 3: Nice to Eat You: Acts of Vampires

Explanation:

Example:

Chapter 4: Now Where Have I Seen Her Before?

Explanation:

Example:

Chapter 5: When in Doubt, It's from Shakespeare...

Explanation:

Example:

Chapter 6: ...Or the Bible

Explanation:

Example:

Chapter 7: Hansel and Gretel

Explanation:

Example:

Chapter 8: It's Greek to Me

Explanation:

Example:

Chapter 9: It's More Than Just Rain or Snow

Explanation:

Example:

Chapter 10: Never Stand Next to the Hero

Explanation:

Example:

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

Explanation:

Example:

Chapter 12: Is That a Symbol?

Explanation:

Example:

Chapter 13: It's All Political

Explanation:

Example:

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

Explanation:

Example:

Chapter 15: Flights of Fancy

Explanation:

Example:

Chapter 16: It's All About Sex...

Explanation:

Example:

Chapter 17: Except for Sex

Explanation:

Example:

Chapter 18: If She Comes Up, It's Baptism

Explanation:

Example:

Chapter 19: Geography Matters...

Explanation:

Example:

Chapter 20:...So Does Season

Explanation:

Example:

Chapter 21: Marked for Greatness

Explanation:

Example:

Chapter 22: He's Blind for a Reason, You Know

Explanation:

Example:

Chapter 23: It's Never Just Heart Disease...And Rarely Just Illness

Explanation:

Example:

Chapter 24: Don't Read with Your Eyes

Explanation:

Example:

Chapter 25: It's My Symbol and I'll Cry If I Want To

Explanation:

Example:

Chapter 26: Is He Serious? And Other Ironies

Explanation:

Example:

Chapter 27: A Test Case: A Reading of "The Garden Party"

What are some ways that Foster Analyzes this Story?

What did YOU think of this test story?