

Name: _____ Circle your topic.

**Writing Assignments for *How to Read Literature like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster
Group/ Individual work**

Each member of class will be placed in a group (A, B, or C). Each member of your group will complete one assignment under your group title. Each student is responsible for creating a handout, chart, or something to give to each class member to help illustrate your topic. Each member of class will complete the assignment under Group D. Copies of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* are available in our library. Please borrow one and keep your handout of my notes. Do not use novels we have studied in class. This assignment is due Friday.

Take this assignment seriously. You will be judged on your presentation, teaching, your handout/chart, and your KNOWLEDGE of the topic. I expect you to be an expert on your topic. Go above and beyond if you want a high grade. Impress me. :)

Group A: SELECT ONE to complete (three group members; one topic per person)

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 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 4 “If It’s Square, It’s a Sonnet” (depending on number of students, teacher may decide to skip this section for now)

Select three sonnets (easily found online) and show what form they are. Discuss how their content reflects the form.

Group B: Select ONE to complete (four group members; one topic per person)

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 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 13 “It’s All Political”

Assume that Foster is right and “it’s all political.” Use his criteria to show that one of the major works assigned to you so far in high school 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*, *Cool Hand Luke*, *Excalibur*, *Malcolm X*, *Braveheart*, and *Gladiator*, to name a few; however, you will be analyzing literature.

Name: _____ Circle your topic.

Group C: SELECT ONE to complete (three group members; one topic per person)

Chapter 15 “Flights of Fancy”

Select a literary work in which flight signifies escape or freedom

Interlude – One Story

Write your own definition for archetype. Then identify an archetypal story and apply it to a literary work with which you are familiar.

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.

Group D: EVERYONE must complete this exercise

Chapter 27 “A Test Case”

Read “The Garden Party by Katherine Mansfield, the short story starting on page 245.

Complete the exercise on pages 265-266, following the directions exactly. Then compare your writing with the three examples. How did you do? What does the essay that follows comparing Laura with Persephone add to your appreciation of Mansfield’s story?