Summer Reading Assignment

9th - 12th Grade

Robert Morgan Educational Center

Assignment 1 (**all grades**): *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster

  This book will introduce you to the concept of literary analysis and begin to prepare you for the assignments ahead. **For each chapter**, carefully consider the methods Foster is advising. In outline or bullet fashion, compile a list of three to five of the most important points he makes. Keep a copy of this outline (or bulleted list) for yourself to aid you as we move through the year. Bring a copy of this assignment on the first day of class for a grade, and make sure you always have your copy to serve as a guide for analyzing literature as we move forward. You may complete this assignment with one other person, so long as both names appear on the assignment.

Note: You are not required to outline/bullet the preface, introduction, interludes, the postlude, or the envoi, but you should definitely read them.

Assignment 2: Major Works Data Sheet

  You will be required to read a specific text by grade level. The works selected appear as recommended texts in the Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards for English Language Arts and serve as exemplars of literature:

- 9th grade: *Animal Farm* by George Orwell
- 10th grade: *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- 11th grade: *Billy Budd* by Herman Melville
- 12th grade: *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad

  You need to dissect the chosen novel for its literary merit. Each student must complete a major works data sheet. This data sheet should be typed in 12-point font, double-spaced, with 1" margins all around. It should include:

1. The novel's title, author, date of publication, and genre
2. Historical information about the period of publication (no more than 100 words)
3. Biographical information about the author (no more than 250 words)
4. Characteristics of the genre (no more than 100 words)
5. A plot summary (no more than 250 words)
6. Notes on the author's style (tone, diction, narrative voice, sentence structure, paragraph structure, chapter structure; no more than 150 words)
7. A quote as an example to demonstrate style
8. A list of memorable quotations (at least 10). These quotes should reflect the novel's primary subjects to help the student construct their thematic statements. Record the quote in its entirety,

the chapter from whence it came, and a few words (no more than 100) to explain the importance or relevance of each quote.

9. A list of characters, separated into primary and secondary characters. Record each character's name (and its significance), their role in the novel, an explanation of why they are important to the novel, and a brief description of each character (include physical and personality traits).

10. The novel's setting (time *and* place; no more than 150 words)

11. An explanation (no more than 150 words) of how the opening scene of the novel is significant to the novel as a whole.

12. The significance of the closing scene of the novel (no more than 150 words)

13. A list of any symbols in the novel, which should an explanation of the symbolism as defined by Thomas C. Foster

14. Three possible thematic statements. A theme is a central message about life or human nature that the author wishes to communicate to the reader. Each thematic statement should be evidenced by the quotes recorded earlier in the major works data sheet.

Important: Do not try to copy and paste the required information from any website. Such plagiarism will be grounds for immediate disciplinary action. Your teachers want *your* words, not anybody else's.

Final Notes

Most of the works appearing in "Assignment 2" are in the public domain, but *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* is not. However, hoopla—provided free of charge by the Miami-Dade Public Library System—carries every book required to complete this summer reading assignment. You need only register an account, free of charge, to access the ebooks. Go to www.hoopladigital.com to do so. A library card isn't required, but it does make the registration process *much* easier.