

May 27, 2015

Dear Junior Honors English Student,

Greetings! No doubt you are looking forward to a fun, relaxing, and rewarding summer just as I am. I am writing to let you know that your summer reading assignment is *How to Read Literature like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster. (ISBN: 978-0060009427), a fun and funny guide to literature.

Consider these questions: What does it mean when a fictional hero takes a journey? Shares a meal? Gets drenched in a sudden rain shower? Often, there is much more going on in a novel or poem than is readily visible on the surface—a symbol, maybe, that remains elusive, or an unexpected twist on a character—and there's that sneaking suspicion that the deeper meaning of a literary text keeps escaping you.

*How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, a practical and amusing guide to literature shows how easy and gratifying it is to unlock those hidden truths, and to discover a world where a road leads to a quest; a shared meal may signify a communion; and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just rain. Ranging from major themes to literary models, narrative devices, and form, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* is the perfect companion for making your reading experience more enriching, satisfying, and fun.

I always require students annotate their books or keep a reading log as they read, so I have included a handout that gives you suggestions on how to annotate a non-fiction text. You should actively read and annotate the text while making connections with the literature you have already read in your academic careers. The book is available at all bookstores but if you want to support local business, you can bring this letter to The King's English and they will give you a 10% discount.

Be ready to take a reading quiz and write on some of the major elements discussed in the book when you come to the class in August. You will also be required to turn in your annotated book or reading log the end of the first week. Be aware that completion of the summer reading assignment will indicate your willingness to take on other challenging assignments throughout the year.

Have a wonderful summer and enjoy the reading. Don't put it off until the last week or two of the summer or you will begin the year feeling "stressed out." Plenty of time for that later. If you have any questions during the summer you may email me at [jthackeray@graniteschools.org](mailto:jthackeray@graniteschools.org)

Sincerely,



Ms. Jill Thackeray  
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Skyline High School