

Required Texts: You will purchase and read **two books** as indicated on the table below.

Everyone must purchase and read this text	Select one text from this list
<p>Title: <i>How to Read Literature like a Professor</i></p> <p>Author: Thomas C. Foster</p> <p>ISBN: 9780062301673</p> <p>Note: You will use this text throughout junior and senior year, including for next year’s summer reading. This text teaches you how to analyze literature. Take notes and learn from the author as if you were a student in his class, rather than just trying to read the book straight through in one sitting. You will be applying Foster’s concepts to analyze the novel or play you select from the list on the right.</p>	<p>Atwood, Margaret – Propose a title for approval</p> <p>Austen, Jane - Propose a title for approval</p> <p>Bronte, Charlotte – <i>Jane Eyre</i></p> <p>Ellison, Ralph – <i>Invisible Man</i></p> <p>Shakespeare – <i>Hamlet, Julius Caesar, or King Lear</i></p> <p>Tan, Amy – <i>The Joy Luck Club</i></p> <p>Twain, Mark – <i>Huckleberry Finn</i></p> <p>Wharton, Edith – <i>Ethan Frome</i></p> <p>You may purchase any complete, unabridged edition of your selected work.</p> <p>Other titles may be approved on an individual basis but must meet the quality and length requirements as determined by the teacher and IB.</p>

Assignment Directions: Choose **only three** of the 13 prompts/questions listed below and on the back of this page. Each prompt requires you to apply or overlay Foster’s suggestions to interpret your selected text. Each answer should be two paragraphs in length (6-7 sentence per paragraph, typed in 12-point Times New Roman font) and include a clear claim, supporting evidence, and commentary/analysis. Bring a **printed copy** of your completed assignment with you on the first day of class and be prepared to discuss/share your findings.

1. **The Quest.** Identify a character from your selected work who goes on any kind of trip or journey. Apply Foster’s ideas about Quests to analyze this character’s journey.
2. **Communion.** Analyze a meal in your selected novel or play. Explore how this meal could be interpreted as an Act of Communion, as Foster explains in his book.
3. **Vampirism.** Which character in your selected novel or play could be considered a vampire according to Foster’s criteria? Explain how this character fits the criteria of a vampire and how this changes your understanding of this character.
4. **Patterns.** Consider chapters 5-9 in Foster, where he discusses allusions to Shakespeare, the Bible, Greek Mythology, and various situational archetypes. What patterns or intertextual connections can you identify in your selected summer book? How do these patterns change your understanding of the book?
5. **Weather and Seasons.** Discuss the significance of the weather or seasons in your selected play or novel. Apply what Foster says about rain, fog, snow, rainbows, winter, and spring to your discussion of weather and setting.

6. **Violence.** Analyze a scene of violence in your summer book, applying Foster's ideas to help explain the function and significance of this incident.
7. **Symbol.** Select a major symbol used in your selected summer book. Analyze it using Foster's suggested framework.
8. **Politics.** Explain how your selected play or novel comments on a social or political issue of its time, such as power, justice, race, gender, class, etc. Apply Foster's insights to your analysis.
9. **Christ Figures.** Analyze a character in your selected novel or play that could be considered a Christ figure. Apply Foster's framework to explain how and why this character is a Christ figure.
10. **Flight.** Analyze an incident of flying or falling in your selected summer book. Apply Foster's ideas to help you explain the significance of this incident.
11. **Baptism.** Analyze an incident in which a character goes through the water: drowning, water rescue, swimming, etc. Apply Foster's ideas about water scenes to explain the significance of this incident.
12. **Geography/Setting.** Analyze the impact of your selected book's geography/setting. Consider what Foster says about the significance of low areas, high areas, rivers, hills, valleys, mountains, swamps, seas, etc.
13. **Disease, Illness, or Disability.** Select a character who suffers from a disease, illness, or disability that may be symbolic. Apply Foster's ideas to help you interpret this character's condition. Consider what Foster says about physical markings, deformities, blindness, heart disease, tuberculosis, plague, venereal disease, malaria, smallpox, aids, fever, and other ailments that appear in literature.