

Texts:

***How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster**

*Available online from The Gilded Page Bookstore, Amazon, as well as many other booksellers. Copies are also available through the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative. There is also an edition available for free online.

A novel of literary merit of your own choosing

What is literary merit?

Literary merit basically means that the novel has “staying power” – it will be appreciated and analyzed by readers for years to come. There are several factors that elevate a novel including, but not limited to:

- Powerful themes (Are they ambiguous and worthy of discussion? Do they appeal to a wide audience? Do they speak to universal truths about the human condition?)
- Artful writing (meaning that the author’s style is innovative, intriguing, and worth analyzing – readers can ponder the symbols, structure, and other literary elements)
- Significance (Does the novel provide readers with an underrepresented perspective? Does it define our understanding of a time period?)

You can choose a classic (i.e., *Pride and Prejudice* or *Of Mice and Men*) or you can choose something written more recently (i.e., *Klara and the Sun* or *The Underground Railroad*) – as long as you choose something that is ***intriguing to you*** and meets the qualities described above. *No YA novels*

Task:

1. Read the following chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*:
 - Introduction: “How’d He Do That?”
 - Chapter 1: “Every Trip is a Quest (Except When It’s Not)”
 - Chapter 5: “Where Have I Seen Her Before?”
 - Interlude: “One Story”
 - Chapter 12: “Is That a Symbol?”
 - Chapter 25: “Don’t Read with Your Eyes”
2. Complete the guided notes for each chapter. There will be sections that you will leave blank until you finish reading your chosen novel of literary merit.
3. Read a novel and complete the section of the guided notes based on your chosen novel.

The tasks can be completed in any order you’d like. When you come back from summer break, we will complete an additional activity with your novel and continue reading *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*.