

2022 AP/Dual Enrollment Literature Summer Reading Assignment

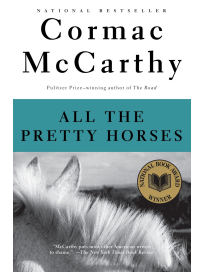
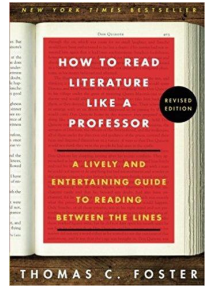
1) **Read the first two chapters (15 pages)** of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster. It's a guide to reading for common patterns that appear in literature, and it's our textbook for the year. (It's available for \$3-4 on Amazon, and Rhone has a few free copies if you come ask.)

Chapter 1 is about the most basic story humans tell: the quest. Chapter 2 is about the symbolic and metaphorical significance of sharing meals - or *failing* to eat and drinking together.

2) **Choose one** of the Cormac McCarthy novels below to read, and **as you read, annotate** for the quest and accompanying meals in each book. (Used on Amazon for \$3-4)

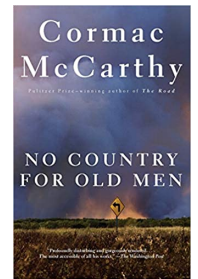
All the Pretty Horses (1992) - Sixteen year-old John Grady Cole loves being a cowboy on a West Texas ranch, but in the 1950s, the cowboy way-of-life is almost gone. And when his grandfather dies, his mother decides to sell the family's ranch. So, John Grady and his best friend saddle up their horses and ride away to Mexico, to maintain their cowboy ways, but Mexico's land and people are much different than they expected. (Many conversations are in Spanish; it's not required, but it would be helpful if you've had Spanish 1 or 2.)

All the Pretty Horses is a coming-of-age story that's sometimes funny and sometimes tragic. PG-13 for violence, language, and mild sexuality. 302 pages



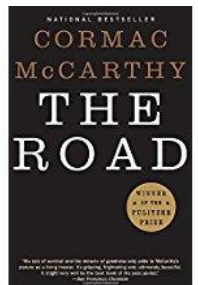
No Country for Old Men (2005) - While hunting in the Texas borderlands, Llewelyn Moss finds a drug deal gone bad; dead and dying Mexicans, heroin, and \$2.4 million cash, which Moss takes home. To recover their cash, the drug cartel sends a ruthless hitman, Anton Chigurh, after Moss. And in pursuit of them both is the aging, old-school sheriff Ed Tom Bell. Who lives, who dies, and who gets the cash?

No Country for Old Men is a dark, ironic western for the 21st-century playing on themes of greed, corruption, fate vs. free will, and our changing views of right and wrong. R for violence and language. 309 pages.



The Road (2006) – The earth is dying in the aftermath of an unidentified apocalyptic event. The sun cannot penetrate the perpetual cloud-cover, and as a result, all plant and animal life is dead. The nameless protagonist and his son travel the ash-covered roads scavenging for food while trying to avoid roving gangs of cannibals, hoping to find warmth and food on the coast.

The Road explores the depths of human despair and how one finds hope in a seemingly hopeless world, and like most books about the future, it's really about contemporary life. PG-13 for horror and language. 287 pages (Rhone has a few free copies if you come ask.)



Tips for reading Cormac McCarthy

- 1) McCarthy doesn't use quotation marks and commas. Read carefully and make notes.
- 2) The narrator is objective; they only tell you what's happening and what's said. Read carefully and make notes.
- 3) McCarthy's characters are products of their landscape. Read the deep setting descriptions as character development. Read carefully and make notes.
- 4) Be patient and persistent. McCarthy is a master storyteller - not a quick one.

If you are unwilling or unable to read a book independently, please don't take AP/DE English Literature because reading is an essential skill to succeed in a literature class. You will not be successful in the class, and you will be frustrated all year long. **If you have questions, contact Coach Rhone: reagan.rhone@hartselletigers.org**