

AP Literature Summer Reading for 2020

1) Read the first six chapters (about 50 pages) of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster. It's a guide to reading for common themes, motifs, archetypes, and symbols that appear throughout literature, and it will serve as our textbook for the school year.

Chapter 1 – trips and quests

Chapter 4 – intertextuality and the “one story”

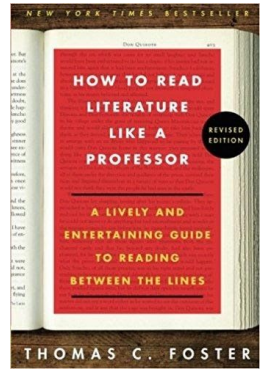
Chapter 2 – acts of communion

Chapter 5 – references to Shakespeare

Chapter 3 – “vampires”

Chapter 6 – references to the Bible

\*\* Many graduating seniors have annotated copies of this book. \*\*

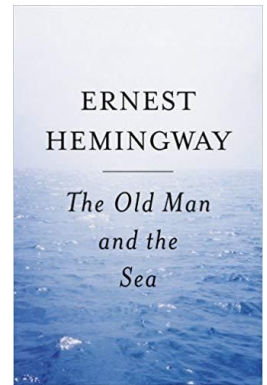


2) Choose one of the novels below to read and annotate for patterns Foster identified:

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*The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway – Santiago, an old Cuban fisherman, hasn't caught a fish in 84 days, and the rest of the village thinks he's cursed. But the boy he taught to fish still believes in him, so Santiago vows to go far out into the sea to catch a truly great fish. He hooks the biggest marlin he's ever caught, but can he bring it in or even get it home?

Ernest Hemingway won the 1953 Pulitzer Prize for fiction and the 1954 Nobel Prize for fiction for what would become his most influential novel. Epitomizing Hemingway's “iceberg principle” of writing, the book's vocabulary and sentence structure are deceptively simple, but for the close reader, Hemingway's sparse style describes a rich, heroic story of courage.

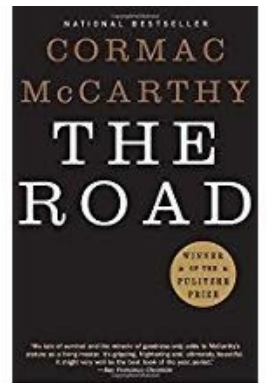


This book is available at every book store, and used copies are available on Amazon for \$2-3.

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*The Road* by Cormac McCarthy – 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 protagonist and his son travel the ash-covered roads scavenging for food while trying to avoid roving gangs of cannibals. This novel explores the depths of human despair and how one finds hope in a seemingly hopeless world.

Cormac McCarthy won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for *The Road*, and literary scholars consider it a masterpiece of postmodernism. The book is easy to read but challenging to understand because, like Hemingway, McCarthy's straightforward style and vocabulary make the book seem simple, but his use of symbolism, motif, and allusion is ambiguous and sometimes contradictory.



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You will have a test on *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* in the first week of school, and you will write your first revised essay on your novel. In other words, your first 9-weeks grade depends on your summer reading.

In June, I will post background information and additional resources in a Google Classroom: d4u6wsj. Email me if you need help.

Reagan Rhone