

IB114HL

IB Literature, Year 2

Summer Reading

Welcome to Year 2 of IB Literature. I look forward to meeting those of you I do not already know. Next school year, summer reading will be assessed through English class, with each class having two books to read. Your first book is Thomas C. Foster's *How to Read Literature like a Professor*, revised edition. After August 1, there will be a series of on-line reading quizzes about Foster's book. These quizzes, which must be completed by **Thursday, August 24, 2023**, will be part of your summer reading grade for Quarter 1.

For your second book, choose from the attached list of significant English-language literature from the last three years, as determined by the Booker Prize, the Pulitzer Prize for Literature, and the National Book Awards. Please email me (ajallen@sehs.net) the title you have selected by **Monday, July 3**.

Part of your summer reading assessment will be a triple journal (See the sample entry at the end of this document.) . First, paraphrase or quote an idea from Foster that you will be applying in that entry. Don't forget the parenthetical reference. Second, quote a passage from the book you selected that you will analyze using the idea you selected from Foster. If the quote is very long, use ellipses to make it more manageable. Again, don't forget the parenthetical reference. Finally, analyze the passage using the idea from Foster. Your analysis should be around one hundred words (but at least seventy-five words) per entry. Each entry must draw on a different chapter from *How to Read Literature like a Professor*. You must have at least twelve entries. The passages you analyze should span the novel. Of course, you must have a Works Cited page, and your journal should be in MLA format. Please start each entry at the top of the page.

You will be uploading your journal to turnitin.com and turning in a print copy. This journal is due on **Thursday, August 24, 2023**.

Happy reading!

Mr. Allen

Along with reading Thomas C. Foster's *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, you will need to read one book from this list of finalists for the Booker Prize, the National Book Award, and the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction from the last three years. Do some research before making your selection. You will then compose a triple journal in which you take an idea from Foster, apply it to a passage from your novel, and offer your own insights. You must email Mr. Allen (ajallen@sehs.net) by July 1, 2022 with the title of the novel you have chosen. Enjoy!

2022

Booker Prize shortlist--2022

Glory by NoViolet Bulawayo

The Trees by Percival Everett

Treacle Walker by Alan Garner

The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida by Shehan Karunatilaka

Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan

Oh William! by Elizabeth Strout

National Book Award finalists--2022

The Rabbit Hutch by Tess Gunty

The Birdcatcher by Gayl Jones

The Haunting of Hajji Hotak and Other Stories by Jamil Jan Kochai

All This Could Be Different by Sarah Thankam Matthews

The Town of Babylon by Alejandro Varela

Pulitzer Prize for Fiction finalists--2022

The Netanyahus: An Account of a Minor and Ultimately Even Negligible Episode in the History of a Very Famous Family by Joshua Cohen

Monkey Boy by Francisco Goldman

Palmares by Gayl Jones

2021

Booker Prize shortlist--2021

A Passage North by Anuk Arudpragasam

The Promise by Damon Galgut

No One is Talking About This by Patricia Lockwood

The Fortune Men by Nadifa Mohamed

Bewilderment by Richard Powers

Great Circle by Maggie Shipstead

National Book Award finalists--2021

Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doerr

Matrix by Lauren Groff

Zorrie by Laird Hunt

The Prophets by Robert Jones, Jr.

Hell of a Book by Jason Mott

Pulitzer Prize for Fiction finalists--2021

The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich

Telephone by Percival Everett

A Registry of My Passage Upon the Earth by Daniel Mason

2020

Booker Prize shortlist--2020

The New Wilderness by Diane Cook

This Mournable Body by Tsitsi Dangarembga

Burnt Sugar by Avni Doshi

The Shadow King by Maaza Mengiste

Shuggie Bain by Douglas Stuart

Real Life by Brandon Taylor

National Book Award finalists--2020

Leave the World Behind by Rumaan Alam

A Children's Bible by Lydia Millet

The Secret Lives of Church Ladies by Deesha Philyaw

Shuggie Bain by Douglas Stuart

Interior Chinatown by Charles Yu

Pulitzer Prize for Fiction finalists--2020

The Topeka School by Ben Lerner

The Dutch House by Ann Patchett

The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead

A sample triple journal entry follows.

Alan Smithee

Mr. Allen

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24 August 2023

Summer Reading Journal: *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* and *Sing, Unburied, Sing*
Entry #1

In *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, Thomas Foster states that “whenever people eat or drink together, it’s communion,” but when a possibility to share food does not come to pass, “then the failed meal stands as a bad sign” (10, 11).

“We here,” Michael says. He lifts our clenched hands. Big Joseph lists, an old oak in a bad wind, but does not move, does not step back, does not say: *Come in*. In the dark behind us, Michaela cries.

“Eat,” she says. “I eat, Jojo!” ... “Cheese, Jojo!” Michaela screams.

“You heard the child, Joseph,” [Maggie] says. A spasm makes her face twitch, and then it is still. Her hair is a red cap, her eyes unfathomably dark. “Time for supper.”

“We already ate,” Big Joseph wheezes.

Michaela mews.

“And she ain’t,” Maggie says.

“You know they ain’t welcome in this house.”

“Joseph,” Maggie says, and she frowns at him and pushes his shoulder.

Big Joseph makes a sound in his throat and sways again, but then I realize Maggie is the wind. (Ward 204–05)

In this passage from *Sing, Unburied, Sing*, author Jesmyn Ward gives the reader an example of a failure of characters to eat together, and as Foster points out, this foreshadows difficulties to come. In this passage, Michael has brought his African American girlfriend and their two children—Jojo, who is thirteen, and Michaela, a toddler—to meet his White parents for the first time. When they arrive, Michaela is hungry and demands to be fed, an indication of how poorly her mother, Leone, cares for her children. Although unhappy with the situation, Maggie, the White grandmother, wants to feed the children, but her racist husband, Big Joseph, does not want them in his house. The disunion represented by the failed meal leads to Big Joseph and his son Michael getting into a fist fight, after which Michael rejects his parents entirely in favor of his girlfriend. In addition to the broken meal, Ward presents the relationship between Big Joseph and his wife by describing Big Joseph as an old oak tree and Maggie as the wind that blows through its branches. Try as she might, Maggie cannot move her stubborn husband.

Works Cited

- Foster, Thomas C. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading between the Lines*. Revised ed., Harper Perennial, 2014.
- Ward, Jesmyn. *Sing, Unburied, Sing*. Scribner, 2017.