

HONORS BRITISH LITERATURE SUMMER ASSIGNMENT: Congratulations on committing yourself to an academically challenging year by enrolling in Honors British Literature! I hope that this course provides a rigorous and intellectually stimulating experience for you over the next year. In preparation for the class you will complete a summer reading assignment that has been designed to expand your academic abilities and foster a deeper appreciation of British Literature.

You must provide a printed copy of your work on the first day of class. Below are instructions for logging on.

REQUIRED READING 1984 by George Orwell- During the summer, each student must read 1984 by George Orwell. Please make notes and write questions on post-its as you read, placing them on the pages that correspond to your comments. Your notes and comments will help you as you prepare for our essay and discussion. As you read the novel, choose ten (10) passages that speak to you. Select passages that catch your attention; however, the passages must be selected from different parts of the novel, including the beginning, middle, and end. Accurately type each passage from the text (citing the page number) and then respond in an extended paragraph. This assignment is due on the first day of class.

REQUIRED READING How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas C. Foster
Students are also required to read and annotate How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas C. Foster before entering the course. The full text is available online. The text provides valuable insight about how to recognize symbols and patterns in literature, leading to a deeper

understanding and critical analysis of literary works. The information in this book will be referenced in class discussions and will aid you in your study of British Literature throughout the semester. Students must take notes on the essential concepts in each chapter. Notes will be collected on the first day along with the following written work. After reading the text, select three of the chapters prompts from below and respond. Only one of the three responses can focus on a film, all other examples must come from literary works (novels, poems, or short stories) Responses should be 1-2 pages typed in MLA format. This assignment is due on the first day of class.

Chapter 1 -- Every Trip Is a Quest (Except When It's Not)... List the five aspects of the QUEST and then apply them to something you have read (or viewed) in the form used on pages 3-5.

Chapter 2 -- Nice to Eat with You: Acts of Communion Choose a meal from a literary work and apply the ideas of Chapter 2 to this literary depiction.

Chapter 3: --Nice to Eat You: Acts of Vampires... What are the essentials of the Vampire story? Apply this to a literary work you have read or viewed.

Chapter 4-- If It's Square, It's a Sonnet... Select three sonnets and show which form they are. Discuss how their content reflects the form. (Submit copies of the sonnets, marked to show your analysis).

Chapter 5--Now, Where Have I Seen Her Before? Define intertextuality. Discuss three examples that have helped you in reading specific works.

Chapter 6 -- When in Doubt, It's from Shakespeare... Discuss a work that you are familiar with that alludes to or reflects Shakespeare. Show how the author uses this connection thematically. Read pages 44-46 carefully. In these pages, Foster shows how Fugard reflects Shakespeare through both plot and theme. In your discussion, focus on theme.

Chapter 7 -- ...Or the Bible... Read "Araby" (available online). Discuss Biblical allusions that Foster does not mention. Look at the example of the "two great jars." Be creative and imaginative in these connections.

Chapter 8 -- Hansel and Gretel Think of a work of literature that reflects a fairy tale. Discuss the parallels. Does it create irony or deepen appreciation?

Chapter 10 -- It's More Than Just Rain or Snow Discuss the importance of weather in a specific literary work, not in terms of plot.

Chapter 11 --...More Than It's Gonna Hurt You: Concerning Violence Present examples of the two kinds of violence found in literature. Show how the effects are different.

Chapter 13 -- It's All Political Assume that Foster is right and "it is all political." Use his criteria to show that one of the major works assigned to you as a freshman is political.

Chapter 14 -- Yes, She's a Christ Figure, Too Apply the criteria on page 119 to a major character in a significant literary work. Try to choose a character that will have many matches. This is a particularly apt tool for analyzing film -- for example, Star Wars, Cool Hand Luke, Excalibur, Malcolm X, Braveheart, Spartacus, Gladiator and Ben-Hur.

Chapter 18 -- If She Comes Up, It's Baptism... Think of a "baptism scene" from a significant literary work. How was the character different after the experience? Discuss.

Chapter 19 -- Geography Matters... Discuss at least four different aspects of a specific literary work that Foster would classify under "geography."

Chapter 20 -- ...So Does Season... Find a poem that mentions a specific season. Then discuss how the poet uses the season in a meaningful, traditional, or unusual way. (Submit a copy of the poem with your analysis.)

Chapter 21 -- Marked for Greatness... Figure out Harry Potter's scar. If you aren't familiar with Harry Potter, select another character with a physical imperfection and analyze its implications for characterization.

Chapter 25 -- Don't Read with Your Eyes... After reading Chapter 25, choose a scene or episode from a novel, play or epic written before the twentieth century. Contrast how it could be viewed by a reader from the twenty-first century with how it might be viewed by a contemporary reader. Focus on specific assumptions that the author makes, assumptions that would not make it in this century.

If you have questions contact Mr. Burns at nburns@cameronisd.net

Assignment is due 1st the day of class, Monday, August 22nd, 2016. Failure to complete the assignment will result in a grade reduction and possible removal from course.