

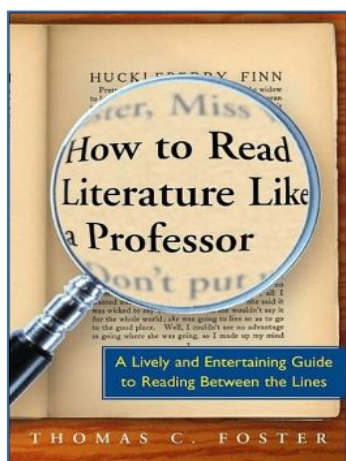
Farragut High School

English 9 Honors Summer/Outside Reading 2018-2019

As an English 9 Honors student, you are required to read two books (nonfiction and fiction) independently to prepare for the course. The nonfiction selection, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster, serves as a resource for studying literature not only in ninth grade but also throughout high school. In fact, Foster's book will be helpful as you read the second required book, the modern novel *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan. Please read closely, and be prepared for assessments (including possible class discussions, objective exams, and writing prompts) on both books in the first weeks of the semester. Whether you take English 9 Honors or English 9 Honors/World History Combined, you will read these books, and your instructor will provide important assessment dates in the first days of class. If you are taking English 9 Honors in the second semester, remember that you must read and/or review the titles prior to your semester.

Nonfiction Selection: *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster

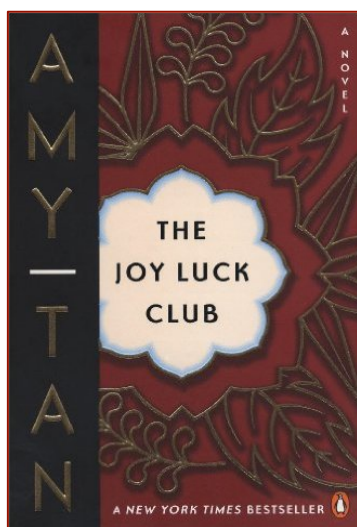
(Ch.16-17 are not addressed at the 9th grade level; therefore, these chapters are not required reading.)



“Most professional students of literature learn to take in the foreground details while seeing what the detail reveals. Experience has proved to them that life and books fall into similar patterns. Nor is this skill exclusive to English professors.”

--Foster

Fiction Selection: *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan*



“Over the years, she told me the same story, except for the ending, which grew darker, casting long shadows into her life, and eventually into mine.”

--Amy Tan

Partly inspired by Amy Tan's own relationship with her mother, *The Joy Luck Club*, Tan's debut novel (1989), tells stories of four immigrant women from China – their hopes, fears, and tragic pasts – as well as stories of their four American-born daughters. This mother-daughter story encompasses numerous universal themes, such as family, hope, love, sacrifice, strength, and wishes for a better life.

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Annotation

Annotation involves a careful, critical, active reading of a text. So, buy a paper copy of the novel. Write (annotate) in the actual book. You can highlight important passages/quotations. Keep track of characters and important plot elements. You may choose to take notes in the margins. Putting the work in as you read will be very helpful when we begin discussion and assessment.

Literary Analysis

Consider the following topics as you read. Approaching a text with a purpose will make your reading more focused and beneficial, so consider the following topics:

- ✓ **Characterization:** Consider and note passages that demonstrate strong characterization. How do these stages of character development contribute to theme?
- ✓ **Plot:** Consider passages that contain the most pivotal moments in the plot. What makes these moments essential in revealing the novel's theme?
- ✓ **Setting:** Consider major locations of the novel. How do these settings influence the characters, conflict, and plot?
- ✓ **Style*:** Consider passages that have the most effective language. How do these passages help create meaning? Why are these choices effective?
- ✓ **Motifs:** A **motif** is the reoccurrence of an element in a text (symbol, idea, character, etc.) Look for repeating patterns or ideas in the novel (communication, heredity, companionship, fate, etc.). What are the patterns and ideas that contribute to theme?

Assessment

Please read with these possible upcoming assessments in mind:

- ✓ Multiple Choice Exam-100 points
- ✓ Formal/In-Class Writings- ~200 points
- ✓ Circle Discussion OR Group Presentation -100 points
- ✓ Regardless of your scheduled semester, you should have the novel read **before** the semester begins. You do not want the summer reading in addition to your daily reading/course work.

“I'm open to reading almost anything - fiction, nonfiction - as long as I know from the first sentence or two that this is a voice I want to listen to for a good long while. It has much to do with imagery and language, a particular perspective, the assured knowledge of the particular universe the writer has created.”

--Novelist Amy Tan on Reading

Please remember that if you have English 9 Honors in Spring 2019, you will want to allow yourself time to review it if you read it this summer. E-mail your teacher with questions. Enjoy your summer!