

Farragut High School

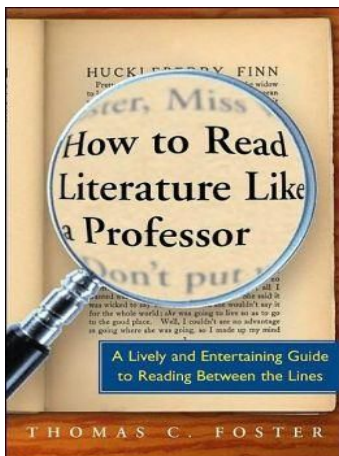
English I Honors Summer/Outside Reading 2019-2020

As English I Honors students, freshmen are required to read two books (nonfiction and fiction) in preparation for the course.

- ✓ ***How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines* by Thomas C. Foster**, serves simply as a resource for recognizing and analyzing patterns in literature. This text will be used not only in ninth grade but also throughout high school. Therefore, familiarize yourself with the patterns that Foster identifies and outlines, but do not worry about reading it as closely as the fiction selection. Certainly, Foster's book will be helpful as you read the second required book, the modern novel *The Joy Luck Club*.
- ✓ ***The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan**, our fiction selection, should be read closely to prepare for assessments (including possible literary circle discussions, objective exams, and essays) in the first weeks of the semester. We will apply Foster's ideas to our discussion of *The Joy Luck Club*, so let *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* guide your reading of Tan's novel.

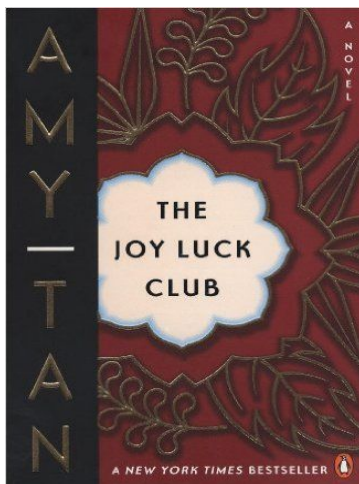
Whether you take English 9 Honors or English 9 Honors/World History Combined, you will read these books, and your teacher will provide important assessment dates in the first days of class. If you are enrolled in English 9 Honors for the second semester, remember that you must read and/or review the titles prior to your semester. Regardless of your scheduled semester, you should have read the novel **before** the semester begins.

Nonfiction Selection: *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively And Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines* by Thomas C. 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, or patterns (based on Foster's book). Keep track of characters and important plot elements. You may choose to take notes in the margins or on post-it notes, index cards, or notebook paper. Putting in the work as you read will be very helpful when we begin discussion and assessments, especially if you do not have English until second semester.

Literary Analysis

Consider the following topics as you read *The Joy Luck Club*. 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 characterization, conflict, plot, and/or theme?
- ✓ **Style (diction, syntax):** Consider passages that have the most effective language. How do these passages help create meaning? Why are these word choices (diction) and sentence structures (syntax) effective?
- ✓ **Motifs:** A **motif** is the purposeful recurrence of an element in literature (symbol, idea, character, etc.). Look for patterns or repeating 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 and/or In-Class Writings- ~200 points
- ✓ Circle Discussion and/or Group Presentation -100 points

"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 2020, 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!