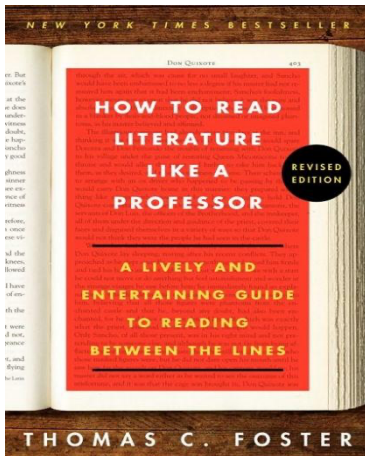


12 AP® Literature & Composition: Summer/Outside Reading 2023-2024

As a 12 AP® Literature & Composition 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, Revised Edition* by Thomas Foster, serves as a resource for studying literature, and you will need to read the book in its entirety. In fact, Foster's book will be helpful as you read the second required book, the modern novel *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri. Please read closely, and be prepared for assessments (including possible literary circle discussions, group presentations, objective exams, and writing prompts) on the novel in the first weeks of the semester – books need to be read/reviewed by 8/22 in the fall and by 1/23 in the spring. If you are taking AP® Literature in the second semester, remember that you must read and/or review the titles prior to your semester.

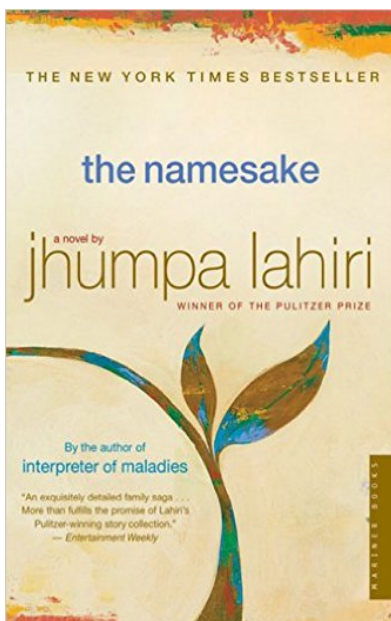
Nonfiction Selection: *How to Read Literature Like a Professor:* *A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines* by Thomas C. Foster



Other titles by Foster: *How to Read Novels Like a Professor*, *How to Read Poetry Like a Professor*.

“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 Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri*



“That’s the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet.”
--Lahiri

What's in a name? For Gogol Ganguli, American-born of Bengali parentage bearing a Russian writer's surname, this question is neither easily answered nor easily dismissed. Straddling two generations, two cultures, and with two first names, Gogol moves through life with a sense he never quite fits in. His quiet angst and personal questioning almost derail him, careening—like the train that links him to his father and his destiny—from relationship to relationship. Jhumpa Lahiri's understated exploration of identity and cultural assimilation in *The Namesake* illuminates for all the question "Who am I?" while bringing alive the colors, flavors, and textures of immigrant Indian life in America.

12 AP® Literature & Composition: Summer/Outside Reading 2023-2024

Annotation

Annotation involves a careful, critical, active reading of a text, so buying a paper copy of the novel is recommended. 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 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 assessment, especially if you are enrolled in the class for the second semester.

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* (diction, syntax):** Consider passages that have the most effective language. How do these passages help create meaning? Why are these choices effective?
- ✓ **Motifs:** A motif refers to the recurring element(s) in a text (symbol, idea, character, etc.) Look for repeating patterns, ideas, topics 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
- ✓ Formal/In-Class Writings
- ✓ Circle Discussion OR Group Presentation
- ✓ 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.

**"In college, I used to underline sentences that struck me, that made me look up from the page. They were not necessarily the same sentences the professors pointed out, which would turn up for further explication on an exam. I noted them for their clarity, their rhythm, their beauty and their enchantment. For surely it is a magical thing for a handful of words, artfully arranged, to stop time. To conjure a place, a person, a situation, in all its specificity and dimensions. To affect us and alter us, as profoundly as real people and things do."*

--Novelist Jhumpa Lahiri on Writing

Please remember that if you have 12 AP® in Spring 2024, you will want to allow yourself time to review it if you read it this summer. E-mail your 12 AP® teacher with questions. Enjoy your summer!