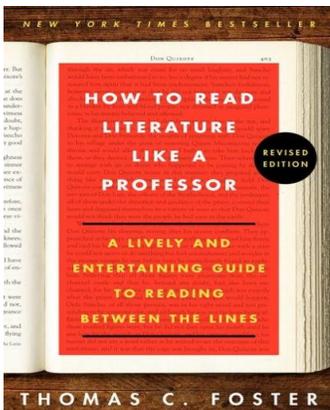


Honors English II: Summer/Outside Reading 2020-2021

As an Honors English II 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, and you need to read Interlude, Chapters 11 THROUGH 15, and Chapters 18 THROUGH 22. We will continue to build on the approaches to literary analysis that Foster discusses in his book and apply them throughout the course of the semester beginning with *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. Please read the fiction choice closely (if the school year is not altered, books need to be read/reviewed by 9/8 in the fall and by 1/19 in the spring), and be prepared for assessments – including possible literary circle discussions, group presentations, objective exams, and writing prompts. Reading Sparknotes will NOT suffice! If you find yourself struggling with the dialect in the novel, please consider augmenting your print version with an audiobook version of the text. Listening to a voice actor reading the dialogue in the novel as you read along helps many students decode the strong southern accents of Hurston’s characters. If you are taking Honors English 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**

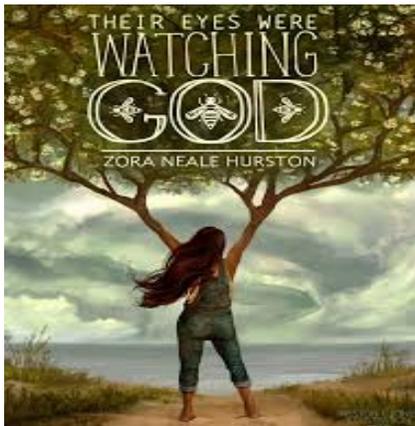
10 Honors students are responsible for reading Interlude, Chapters 11 THROUGH 15, and Chapters 18 THROUGH 22.



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.”
—Thomas C. Foster

**Fiction Selection: *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
by Zora Neale Hurston***



“There is a basin in the mind where words float around on thought and thought on sound and sight. Then there is a depth of thought untouched by words, and deeper still a gulf of formless feelings untouched by thought.”
— Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Farragut High School

Honors English II: Summer/Outside Reading 2020-2021

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:

- ✓ Comprehension quiz the first week!
- ✓ 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.

“Research [and active reading] is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose. It is a seeking that he who wishes may know the cosmic secrets of the world and they that dwell therein” (*Dust Tracks on a Road*, 1942).
—Novelist Zora Neale Hurston

Please remember that if you have 10 Honors English in Spring 2021, you will want to allow yourself time to review it if you read it this summer. E-mail your 10 Honors teacher with questions. Enjoy your summer!