

**Writing Assignments for *How to Read Literature like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster**  
**Summer Reading for Advanced Placement Literature and Composition**  
**Ms. McGee** (assignment adapted from Donna Anglin and M. Hudak)

Complete the following writing assignments over your reading of *How to Read Literature like a Professor*. Refer to *HTRLLAP* and any novels you've read in high school. Email the assignments in one attachment to [abbie.mcgee@vbschools.com](mailto:abbie.mcgee@vbschools.com) by September 18, 2009.

**Group A: SELECT ONE to complete**

**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 4 “If It’s Square, It’s a Sonnet”**

Select three sonnets (easily found online) and show what form they are. Discuss how their content reflects the form.

**Group B: Select ONE to complete**

**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 13 “It’s All Political”**

Assume that Foster is right and “it’s all political.” Use his criteria to show that one of the major works assigned to you so far in high school 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, and Gladiator, to name a few.

**Group C: SELECT ONE to complete**

**Chapter 15 “Flights of Fancy”**

Select a literary work in which flight signifies escape or freedom

**Interlude – One Story**

Write your own definition for archetype. Then identify an archetypal story and apply it to a literary work with which you are familiar.

**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.

**Group D: EVERYONE must complete this exercise**

**Chapter 27 "A Test Case"**

Read "The Garden Party" by Katherine Mansfield, the short story starting on page 245. Complete the exercise on pages 265-266, following the directions exactly. Then compare your writing with the three examples. How did you do? What does the essay that follows comparing Laura with Persephone add to your appreciation of Mansfield's story?