

AP LITERATURE SUMMER READING 2017

1. “How to Mark a Book” by Mortimer Adler, Ph.D.

This is where you must BEGIN your summer assignments.

Go to <http://www.tnellen.com/cybereng/adler.html> and read Dr. Adler’s essay, “How to Mark a Book.” Formally, we call this “annotation,” and it is not only recommended, it is REQUIRED. That being said, marking a book (or anything we read) is certainly an activity that is personal and unique to you as an individual. It is important that you create a system that works well for you—consider the possibilities of highlighters, colored pens or pencils, and post-it notes as some of your options. Your personal book marking system will develop over time.

2. *How to Read Literature Like A Professor* - Thomas C. Foster

ISBN-13: 978-0062301673 (I recommend purchase so you can annotate freely)

Your next assignment is to read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster. This book is an invaluable resource for students who are interested in doing more than just a cursory reading of any text they encounter. Thomas Foster, a professor of English at the University of Michigan, humorously provides an introduction to literary analysis. In a very informal style (this is not a textbook), Foster focuses on literary basics: major themes and motifs, literary models, and narrative devices...all of which will be helpful as we study texts throughout the school year ahead.

Some of what you read will be familiar to you, and some of it will be new and provide “food for thought” as you read your summer novel. As you read, you should annotate (see the article “How to Mark a Book” by Mortimer Adler, Ph.D.), and might consider taking notes as well.

3. *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas Foster will help you to understand the novel better.

- A. **Before you read *Frankenstein*:** Read Chapter 21 from Foster’s book paying attention to what he says about *Frankenstein*.
- B. **After you read *Frankenstein*:** Apply the following chapters from Foster’s book to *Frankenstein*.

Chapter 1—“Every Trip Is a Quest”

Chapter 6— “...or *The Bible*”

Chapter 8 — “It’s Greek to Me” (think Prometheus)

Chapter 9—“It’s More Than Just Rain or Snow”

Chapter 11—“...More Than It’s Gonna Hurt You: Concerning Violence”

Chapter 12—“Is That a Symbol?”

Chapter 19—“Geography Matters...”

Chapter 20—“...So Does Season”

Chapter 24—“Don’t Read with Your Eyes”

ASSIGNMENT: Respond to each chapter by writing a well-developed paragraph that explains the main points Foster is making and show how they apply to *Frankenstein* (150 word minimum). Include at least two specific textual examples (at least one of which is a direct quote from the novel) that show how Mary Shelley is using the technique or idea discussed in Foster’s chapter. **Use MLA parenthetical citation to indicate where in the novel you found your examples.**