

## **How to Read Literature like a Professor**

### **Group Study and Mini Lessons**

For our study of Thomas C. Foster's *How to Read Literature like a Professor*, you will be working in a group that will become the experts on your assigned chapters from the text. At the end of the study, each group will present a mini lesson on the chapters to teach the class the literary concepts addressed in that section and to help them make connections to their prior reading and/or literary experiences. You will then be the experts on these concepts when we read different pieces of literature throughout the year.

Your mini lesson will be driven by a PowerPoint that you will present to and ultimately share with the class. Your PowerPoint should include the following:

- Quotations and details from each chapter of the Foster book you are assigned (include page numbers)
- Explanations (both visual and verbal) of the concepts and/or definitions addressed in each chapter
- 2-3 Connections to prior reading common to the group (think back to what you have read the last three years!)
- 2-3 visual and/or creative elements (e.g. cartoons, video clips, images, or live elements)

The slides of the PowerPoint should be quick, short bullet points of the information you are going to talk about. It should not be filled with complete sentences that you read to your classmates. You are PRESENTING (teaching), not reading. That being said, your PowerPoint will be available to your classmates, which means that you need to utilize the notes feature of PowerPoint. Basically, the notes should be what your elaboration on the bullet points and should resemble what you present/teach. That way, your classmates will have **all** the information when they go to study later. If you have never used the notes feature, this is a great opportunity to learn!

All of the chapters are available on the class website. While I do recommend that you divide the chapters and conquer the task, it would be wise for all of your group members to read all of the chapters assigned to your group.

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### **Group Chapter Divisions:**

#### **Group One:**

Introduction: How'd He do That?  
Chapter 5: Now Where Have I Seen Her Before?  
Interlude: Does He Mean That?  
Chapter 12: Is that a Symbol?  
Interlude: One Story  
Chapter 25: Don't Read with Your Eyes

#### **Group Two:**

Chapter 1: Every Trip is a Quest (Except When It's Not)  
Chapter 2: Nice to Eat with You: Acts of Communion  
Chapter 3: Nice to Eat You: Acts of Vampires  
Chapter 11: ...More Than It's Gonna Hurt You:  
Concerning Violence  
Chapter 16: It's All About Sex...  
Chapter 17: ...Except Sex

#### **Group Three:**

Chapter 6: When in Doubt, It's from Shakespeare  
Chapter 7: ...Or the Bible  
Chapter 8: Hansel and Gretel  
Chapter 9: It's Greek to Me  
Chapter 14: Yes, She's a Christ Figure, Too

#### **Group Four:**

Chapter 10: It's More Than Just Rain or Snow  
Chapter 15: Flights of Fancy  
Chapter 18: If She Comes Up, It's Baptism  
Chapter 19: Geography Matters...  
Chapter 20: ...So Does Season

#### **Group Five:**

Chapter 13: It's All Political  
Chapter 21: Marked for Greatness  
Chapter 22: He's Blind for a Reason, You Know  
Chapter 23: It's Never Just Heart Disease...  
Chapter 24: ...And Rarely Just Illness