

Summer Reading Assignment

GIFTED ELA 8th Grade

***How to Read Literature Like a Professor for Kids* by Thomas C Foster
AND a book of your choice**

Dear Student and Parent/Guardian,

We are excited to have you next year! As we enter into the 1st nine weeks, it is important that we start the year successfully. Your summer reading assignment is to read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor for Kids* by Thomas C Foster and one other book of your choice that is an 8th grade reading level. We suggest that you start reading early, read and reread (if you don't understand certain parts), and even take notes on things you like or are confused about. Read *HTRLLAPFK* (*How to Read Literature Like a Professor for Kids*) first, then read a book of your choice and find four or more examples of the elements presented in *HTRLLAPFK*. You may use the chart provided on the back, or create your own on either the computer or your own paper. (There are some examples of what is expected on Mrs. Miller's class blog -

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Find a minimum of four examples of the elements presented in HTRLLAPFK from the book of your choice (use this chart or your own, just make sure you provide the topic, citation, and explanation for each of the 4 or more)

Book Title _____ **Author** _____

Chapter/topic from <i>HTRLLAPFK</i>	Explanation (2-3 complete sentences)
Chapter 1 -Quests (Who is the quester? Where are they going? Why are they going? What challenges and trials are along the way? How does your quester respond to the challenges and what does he/she learn? What was your character's actual quest?)	
Chapter 2 - Acts of Communion (Who is eating together? What are they talking about over their food? What about the characters that aren't eating together? Does a meal turn ugly or not happen at all? What does the meal suggest about the relationship between the characters?)	
Chapter 3 - Vampires (Is there an older character taking advantage of a younger character? Is innocence being taken? Is anyone using other people to get what they want?)	
Chapter 4 - Sonnets/poetry (Do you see any "square" sections? Are there 14 lines with a shift between two units of meaning?)	
Chapter 5 - Old Friends (Are there any characters in this book that are similar to characters in another book? How does that book's story relate to this book's story?)	
Chapter 6 – Shakespeare references (Are there any Shakespearean references or quotes? Are there similar characters?)	
Chapter 7 – Bible references (Are there any Biblical references or quotes? Is there a Jesus character? Are there other similar characters? Is anyone getting baptized?)	
Chapter 8 – Fairy Tales (Are there any fairy or folk tale references or quotes? Are there similar characters? Is there a happily ever after?)	
Chapter 9 – Greek mythology (Are there any mythological characters or creatures? Is there a deeper meaning or lesson to this story?)	
Chapter 10 - Weather (What weather is described? How does the action/plot change based off of the weather changes? What could the weather symbolize? Are people related to or described with seasons/weather/nature?)	
Chapter 11 – Symbols (Are there objects or ideas that are repeated? What do you think those could symbolize? Why?)	
Chapter 12 - Politics (Are any human problems addressed or mentioned? What information do you know about the leadership during the story? Who has money? Who holds power? Are their issues of justice and inequality?)	
Chapter 13 - Geography (Are there mountains or beaches? Is the landscape described? How would the story be different if it happened somewhere else? Is there any traveling?)	
Chapter 14 – Marks (Do any of the characters have unique physical appearances? Is anyone described as particularly different? Does anyone get a mark or scar throughout the book? What could these marks represent? Do people look how they act?)	
Chapter 15 – Blindness (Is there a physically blind character? Is there a character who is missing something big? How does the blindness affect the story?)	
Chapter 16 - Sickness (Is anyone sick? What type of sickness? Is it picturesque, mysterious, and used as a symbol? What could the illness mean? Are there fake illnesses?)	
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Chapter/topic from <i>HTRLLAPFK</i>	Explanation (2-3 complete sentences)
Chapter 18 - Irony (Are there symbols that don't fit the typical meaning? Does the opposite of what you think is going to happen, end up happening? Is it kind of funny?)	

GOOD EXAMPLE

Book Title [Hound of the Baskervilles](#) **Author** [Sir Arthur Conan Doyle](#)

Chapter/topic from HTRLLAPFK	Explanation (2-3 complete sentences)
<p>Chapter 1 -Quests (Who is the quester? Where are they going? Why are they going? What challenges and trials are along the way? How does your quester respond to the challenges and what does he/she learn? What was your character's actual quest?)</p>	<p>Watson is the quester as he is going to Dartmoor in place of Sherlock Holmes so that he can protect Sir Henry and do some more investigation. Watson is really going there to attempt solve the case on his own while Holmes takes a more secretive approach.</p>
<p>Chapter 8 – Fairy Tales (Are there any fairy or folk tale references or quotes? Are there similar characters? Is there a happily ever after?)</p>	<p>The whole murder plot opens with an old folktale about demon hound that haunts the Baskerville family. Much of the novel revolves around discerning fact from myth, reality from illusion. But in the end, the case is solved and everyone lives happily ever after.</p>
<p>Chapter 10 - Weather (What weather is described? How does the action/plot change based off of the weather changes? What could the weather symbolize? Are people related to or described with seasons/weather/nature?)</p>	<p>The weather is often described as dreary and ominous, which match the mood of the book. Also, the murder (a dark act) takes place at night (a dark time).</p>
<p>Chapter 11 – Symbols (Are there objects or ideas that are repeated? What do you think those could symbolize? Why?)</p>	<p>Dr. Mortimer's walking stick symbolizes a test for Watson where Holmes is trying to see how well Watson can use deductive reasoning. The walking stick also symbolizes Holmes's impressive ability to observe and infer. The conversation around the walking stick shows that Watson and Holmes are good friends, but Holmes is still the brighter of the two.</p>
<p>Chapter 13 - Geography (Are there mountains or beaches? Is the landscape described? How would the story be different if it happened somewhere else? Is there any traveling?)</p>	<p>Moor is described as a foreboding place where it is easy to disappear. Sherlock is not the only one who hides in the moor. The Grimpen Mire is described as a place where you need to watch your footing because it is easy to get stuck or lose your footing. Similarly, the town of Dartmoor and Baskerville hall are *stuck* in the past and having a hard time moving past this "demon hound" myth. That is, until Stapleton is lost in the Mire and Sir Henry stays to correctly live in Baskerville Hall.</p>
<p>Chapter 14 – Marks (Do any of the characters have unique physical appearances? Is anyone described as particularly different? Does anyone get a mark or scar throughout the book? What could these marks represent? Do people look how they act?)</p>	<p>Stapleton is not introduced to the reader as a "creepy" guy, but just as a strange sir running after butterflies. You don't start to notice anything off about him until he gets so protective of his "sister." In this situation, Stapleton does not appear to be the villain, but he is.</p>
<p>Chapter 18 - Irony (Are there symbols that don't fit the typical meaning? Does the opposite of what you think is going to happen, end up happening? Is it kind of funny?)</p>	<p>In this book, there are a few different Red Herrings to throw off the reader. The first being the folktale - which gives an "easy" explanation for Sir Charles's death. The second is that the convict is the murderer, it is too simple of an answer. The third would be the Barrymore's strange behaviour. None of these are actually the answer to the murder mystery.</p>

BAD EXAMPLE

Book Title Hound of the Baskervilles **Author** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Chapter/topic from HTRLLAPFK	Explanation (2-3 complete sentences)
Chapter 1 -Quests (Who is the quester? Where are they going? Why are they going? What challenges and trials are along the way? How does your quester respond to the challenges and what does he/she learn? What was your character's actual quest?)	Watson, goes to Dartmoor, to protect Sir Henry, but really to solve the case
Chapter 8 – Fairy Tales (Are there any fairy or folk tale references or quotes? Are there similar characters? Is there a happily ever after?)	Folk tale about demon hound. Case gets solved.
Chapter 10 - Weather (What weather is described? How does the action/plot change based off of the weather changes? What could the weather symbolize? Are people related to or described with seasons/weather/nature?)	Murder happens at night
Chapter 11 – Symbols (Are there objects or ideas that are repeated? What do you think those could symbolize? Why?)	Walking Stick
Chapter 13 - Geography (Are there mountains or beaches? Is the landscape described? How would the story be different if it happened somewhere else? Is there any traveling?)	Moor; Grimpen Mire = sketchy and confusing place for a sketchy and confusing crime
Chapter 14 – Marks (Do any of the characters have unique physical appearances? Is anyone described as particularly different? Does anyone get a mark or scar throughout the book? What could these marks represent? Do people look how they act?)	Stapleton looks weird and acts weird
Chapter 18 - Irony (Are there symbols that don't fit the typical meaning? Does the opposite of what you think is going to happen, end up happening? Is it kind of funny?)	Red Herrings