



## ELEVENTH GRADE REQUIRED SUMMER READING

### TEXTS

For your Summer Reading assignment, you will need to purchase two books:

*How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines*  
by Thomas C. Foster [ISBN-13: 978-0062301673](#)

and

*The Importance of Being Earnest*, by Oscar Wilde [ISBN-13 : 978-0486264783](#) (the exact edition does not matter, but this one is inexpensive)

### ASSIGNMENT

**Reading About Reading:** This book explains the lenses a savvy reader uses to interpret a work of Literature. You may read every chapter if you want, but your summer reading assignment is only to read:

**Introduction:** How'd He Do That?

**Ch 1:** Every Trip Is a Quest (Except When It's Not)

**Ch 2:** Nice to Eat with You: Acts of Communion

**Ch 4:** Now, Where Have I Seen Her Before?

**Ch 5:** When in Doubt, It's from Shakespeare...

**Ch 6:** ... Or the Bible

**Ch 8:** It's Greek to Me

**Ch 9:** It's More Than Just Rain or Snow

**Ch 10:** Never Stand Next to the Hero

**Ch 12:** Is That a Symbol?

**Ch 14:** Yes, She's a Christ Figure, Too

**Ch 18:** Baptism

**Ch 19:** Geography Matters...

**Ch 20:** ... So Does Season

**Ch 21:** Marked for Greatness

**Ch 22:** He's Blind for a Reason, You Know

**Ch 24:** Don't Read with Your Eyes

While it is not great literature (it is a somewhat fun read), *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* will strengthen the vocabulary you use to talk about literature. It reveals the reasons authors write the things or the way they do.

Once you have **read and annotated** the assigned chapters, **read and annotate** *The Importance of Being Earnest*, by Oscar Wilde in its entirety then write answers to the following questions:

You will submit both annotated books and written answers on the first day of classes.

(Either hand write or type in complete sentences.)

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1. As you read each work keep a running list of vocabulary words you cannot define. Look them up and write a brief definition for each one. (you should have at least 30 per book)
2. Intro: What three things separate the “professional” from other readers? Why are these three things important in interpreting literature?
3. Ch 1: What is the quest story really about? What is the “quest” in the *Importance of Being Earnest*, and what is it “really about”?
4. Ch 2: What roles do meals and eating serve in the *Importance of Being Earnest*?
5. Ch 4: What is intertextuality, and how does it impact the *Importance of Being Earnest* (how does it relate to other stories you have read, or do you see other stories in it)?
6. Ch 5-6: In what ways do Shakespeare’s and Biblical works impact the *Importance of Being Earnest*?
7. Ch 8: How does Foster define “myth”? What impact (if any) does myth have on the *Importance of Being Earnest*?
8. Ch 9: Explain how rain and snow are often paradoxical symbols.
9. Ch 10: What point does Foster make about the purpose of supporting characters? What are the flat and round characters in the *Importance of Being Earnest*? Which characters are more dynamic or static?
10. Ch 12: What is Foster trying to say about the recognizing and defining symbols? Does he mean that there is no right or wrong answer as to what functions as a symbol and what a symbol stands for? Explain how this functions in the *Importance of Being Earnest*.
11. Ch 14: In this chapter Foster asserts the importance of recognizing and understanding Christian imagery. Why does he believe that you need to “put aside your belief system, at least for the period during which you read” (126-127)? Explain how this factors into the *Importance of Being Earnest*.
12. Ch 18: What role does “baptism” and drowning play in the *Importance of Being Earnest*? Explain.
13. Ch 19-20: In these chapters, Foster is trying to assert that the author makes deliberate choices about his or her setting, and readers should pay attention to these choices. How does geography or season impact the *Importance of Being Earnest*?
14. Ch 21: What role can physical deformities play in a story? Explain.
15. Ch 22: What role can blindness play in a story? How does Foster use Oedipus as an example of this? Is there anything like this in the *Importance of Being Earnest*?
16. Ch 24: Cliff Fadiman said, “When you reread a classic you do not see more in the book than you did before; you see more in you than there was before.” How does this quote clarify or relate to Foster’s assertions in chapter 24?