

## 2010 Summer IB English Reading List

*How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster

*The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

**Directions for *The Scarlet Letter*:** In a spiral back notebook, answer each of the following questions fully. Each answer should take up approximately one page of your notebook.

1. Define symbolism and show how Hawthorne used it in *The Scarlet Letter*.
2. Explain the concept of morality (good vs. evil) contained within the novel. Concentrate on Hester, Dimmesdale, and Chillingworth. How do these characters deal with their sins privately and publicly?
3. Discuss the role of forgiveness within the novel. Which characters are able/unable to forgive? What are the results?
4. Choose one of the main characters in the novel and analyze him/her in terms of the following: main problem and its resolution, growth/change in character, narrator's attitude toward character.
5. Choose the five most important scenes in the novel (your choice). Provide a brief summary and rhetorical analysis of each scene. (Rhetorical analysis provides an examination of the author's stylistic devices. This typically includes but is certainly not limited to tone, diction, imagery, figurative language, and syntax.)

**Directions for *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*:** In a spiral back notebook, thoroughly answer the chapter questions or provide summaries after you have read each of the chapters.

Chapter 1 – List the five aspects of the quest and apply them to a movie you have seen or a book you have read.

Chapter 2 – What might eating with others symbolize? Think of a meal from a literary work and apply the ideas of Chapter 2 to it.

Chapter 3 – What are the essentials of the vampire story?

Chapter 4 – Define the sonnet and give the rhyme scheme for the Petrarchan and Shakespearean sonnets.

Chapter 5 – Define intertextuality.

Chapter 6 – Summarize.

Chapter 7 – Define allusion and explain how one can recognize a Biblical allusion.

Chapter 8 – What constitutes the literary canon? Explain the Hansel/Gretel theme. Identify a story that you have read which reflects a fairy tale.

Chapter 9 - Summarize.

Chapter 10 – Discuss the importance of rain in a specific literary work you have read.

Interlude – Define lateral thinking.

Chapter 11 – Define violence and its two categories. Apply what you learned in this chapter to a movie or literary work.

Chapter 12 – What is the difference between symbolism and allegory? Define each and give examples in literary works you have read.

Chapter 13 – How do political and social considerations often find their way into literary works?

Chapter 14 – Summarize.

Chapter 15 - Of what is flight symbolic? What does it mean when literary figures fly?

Chapter 16 – Summarize.

Chapter 17 – Summarize.

Chapter 18 – Discuss the significance of baptism and drowning in literary works.

Chapter 19 – What information does the geography of a story provide?

Chapter 20 – What meaning can be derived from the mention of specific seasons in a literary work?

Interlude – Define archetype. Is it possible to ever find the true original?

Chapter 21 – What meaning might be derived from physical marking of a literary character?

Chapter 22 – Summarize.

Chapter 23 – Discuss possible meaning of a literary character's heart disease.

Chapter 24 – What are the principles governing an author’s use of disease in literary works?

Chapter 25 – Define deconstruction. What are the potential problems with reading literature “with your eyes”?

Chapter 26 – Why does irony trump everything? Identify and summarize a literary work you have read that relies on irony.

Chapter 27 – Summarize.