Part One

How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas C. Foster (revised edition published in 2014)

Thomas Foster knows how to "read literature like a professor" because he is a professor of English at the University of Michigan. In this text, Foster explains how to read literature more deeply. Focusing on theme, symbolism, allusions, intertextuality, and other literary devices, Foster gives his readers tips on how to be a more analytical reader, an important skill in any English class. His book will be an excellent reference for us in class throughout the year.

You will need to purchase your own copy of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. You can find the book in bookstores in the area, and ordering from sites such as amazon.com, booksense.com, and other online booksellers is a possibility.

Assignment - Read chapters 1, 9, 14, 19, 21, 23, and 24. (You will be using information from each chapter to complete Part Three of the summer reading assignment. Also, we will refer to several chapters throughout the semester as we study selected pieces of British literature.)

Part Two

Assignment – Read *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield. You may purchase your own copy of the novel from a local bookstore or order online from sites such as amazon.com, booksense.com, or other online booksellers. (Please note: We will be using this novel for several discussions/assignments at the beginning of the semester!)

Part Three

Synthesize Parts One and Two - Relating *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster to *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield

Directions: Respond to the all of the writing prompts below. Each response should be a well-written discussion (minimum of three paragraphs) that includes direct quotes from both texts and specific examples from *The Thirteenth Tale*. (Make sure you correctly cite each quote.)
For example: "The real reason for a quest *never* involves the stated reason" (Foster 3).

Chapter 1 -- Every Trip Is a Quest (Except When It's Not)
List the five aspects of the QUEST and then apply them to Margaret's quest in *The Thirteenth Tale*.

Chapter 9 -- It's More Than Just Rain or Snow
Choose a scene from *The Thirteenth Tale* where the weather or the environment is more than what it seems and explain the significance.

Chapter 14 -- Yes, She's a Christ Figure, Too
Apply the criteria on pages 128-129 to Margaret in *The Thirteenth Tale*.

Chapter 19 -- Geography Matters…
Pay special attention to the geography (land and houses) in *The Thirteenth Tale* and explain its importance in the story, the characters, and the message the author is sending to his or her readers.

Chapter 21 -- Marked for Greatness
Analyze the physical imperfection of Vida Winter and its implications for characterization.

Chapter 23 – It's Never Just Heart Disease...And Rarely Just Illness
In *The Thirteenth Tale*, what are the symbolic possibilities of the illness in which Vida Winter is inflicted?

Chapter 24 -- Don't Read with Your Eyes
Choose a quote from *The Thirteenth Tale* that reflects the overall meaning of the work. What did you learn from this reading experience?

Grading for Part Three - Synthesis of Parts One and Two

Each prompt is worth 14 points. This part of the assignment will count as three test grades (9 times).

• Response contains specific examples from *The Thirteenth Tale* (5 points)
• Response contains at least one quotation from *The Thirteenth Tale* and at least one quotation from the specified chapter of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* (2 points)
• Response fully answers prompt (5 points)
• Response is at least three paragraphs in length (2 points)

Honor Code
Copy the following statement at the bottom of the last page of Part III. Then sign and date below the statement.

"I certify that no unauthorized assistance has been received or given in the completion of this work. All work shown is my own."