

How to read literature like a professor essay



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Chapter 3 – Nice To Eat You: Acts of Vampires Chapter Summary: -Ghosts and vampires are never only about ghosts and vampires. There's a thin line between the ordinary and the monstrous. -Sex: Evil, lust, seduction, temptation, danger. Evil has been related to sex ever since the serpent tempted Eve.

-Exploitation: using other people to get what we want, placing our desires above others. Vampires and other figures are used where someone grows by weakening someone else. Connections: -The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne: Hester wearing the scarlet letter A is a perfect example of exploitation. By making her weaker, idealistic society grows stronger. A major theme is sin, relating easily to the evilness of sex in a puritan society. - Frankenstein by Mary Shelley: Frankenstein's monster is scared by outside society as much as they are of him, but in this way, the un-accepting nature of society is strengthened.

Chapter 5 – Now, Where Have I Seen Her Before? Chapter Summary: -There is no such thing as a wholly original work of literature. All books borrow situations, ideas, and themes. - There's only one story. When a new work is created, it is set among the monuments, adding to and altering the order. " -T. S.

Eliot -Intertextuality: the ongoing interaction between poems or stories. This link deepens reading, adding multiple levels of meaning to a work.

Connections: -Sophie's World by Jostein Gaarder: Through Sophie's travels she meets characters from other works of literature, such as Alice in Wonderland, Winnie the Pooh, and other recognizable characters. Alberto

also uses well-known works of literature to help teach Sophie her philosophy lessons.

_____ Chapter 9 – It’s Greek to Me Chapter Summary: -Myth is a body of story that matters.

Connections: -Oedipus by Sophocles: The story of Oedipus is not based on real events, but a reader can believe that it is. The Greek myth of Oedipus allowed Sophocles to create a stage play for performance. -Landscape with the Fall of Icarus [poem and painting]: The myth of Icarus allowed the creation of both a painting and many literary works. They are all very different, but come back to the same myth.

_____ Chapter 10 – It’s More Than Just Rain or Snow Chapter Summary: -It’s never just rain. The dark and stormy evening has tons of atmosphere and mood. Connections: -The Jungle by Upton Sinclair: Late in the novel, Jurgis’ son Antanas dies in a puddle in the street. If it had not been raining, there would have been no possible way that Antanas could have died. The weather of the novel directly reflects the events of the story and gives the reader a better sense of what the characters are feeling. Sophie’s World by Jostein Gaarder: In Chapter 8, Albert teaches Sophie about myth.

One particular myth he discusses is Thor, the God of fertility. When Thor swung his hammer he gave rain to the earth. Many years ago, this was one way to explain the idea of rain. Chapter 14 – Yes, She’s a Christ Figure, Too

Chapter Summary: -To get the most out of European and American literature, it is best to know something about the Old and New Testaments.

Religious knowledge is always helpful. -The ability for anyone to be a Christ figure, despite differences. Certain characteristics can relate a person to the Holy One. (For example: tempted by the devil, good with children, self-sacrificing, forgiving. Etc.

) Connections: -The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway: Old man Santiago is a perfect Christ figure. He, in many places in the story, is compared to Christ and has attributes that could only be parabolic. -Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett: While Godot is never actually seen in the play, I assumed that he could be a Christ figure. Also, Godot sends his boys, the messengers, to see Estragon and Vladimir.

These boys could be seen as either disciples or angels, working for their Lord. Chapter 15 – Flights of Fancy Chapter Summary: -Human beings can't fly, so if something can fly, it's not human. -Flight is freedom. When a character has the ability to fly they are free from the burdens of everyday life.

Connections: -The Landscape with the Fall of Icarus: By giving Icarus the ability to fly, he has a freedom unfathomed by most. This freedom is too much for someone to handle and he does even what he is told not to, by flying close to the sun. Sophie's World by Jostein Gaarder: In one of Alberto's letters to Sophie he talked about flying. A small experiment shows Sophie the difference between the ideas of a child and a grown adult, and how something like flying can get such a different reaction from the two. " One <https://assignbuster.com/how-to-read-literature-like-a-professor-essay/>

morning, Mom, Dad and little Thomas, aged two or three, are having breakfast in the kitchen.

After a while Mom gets up and goes over to the kitchen sink, and Dad - yes, Dad - flies up and floats around under the ceiling while Thomas sits watching. " What do you think? " Thomas says. Perhaps he points up at his father and says: " Daddy's flying! " Thomas will certainly be astonished, but then he very often is. Dad does so many strange things that this business of a little flight over the breakfast table makes no difference to him. Now it's Mom's turn. She hears what Thomas says and turns around abruptly.

How do you think she reacts to the sight of Dad floating nonchalantly over the kitchen table? She drops the jam jar on the floor and screams with fright. She may even need medical attention once Dad has returned respectably to his chair. He should have learned better table manners by now!) Why do you think Thomas and his mother react so differently? Mom has already learned that people can't fly, Tommy has not. " Chapter 18 - If She Comes Up, It's Baptism Chapter Summary: -Baptism: emerging from the water equals rebirth. A cleansing in water.

If a character is submerged in water and returns to the surface, they have been baptized. Connections: -Sophie's World by Jostein Gaarder: In chapter of Sophie's World, Sophie was caught in the rain and cleansed. Chapter 19 - Geography Matters... Chapter Summary: -The geography and ' stuff' of a story [i. e. hills, economics, politics, and history] are not meaningless.

People and their behavior are also key hints to theme, plot, and symbolism. - When writers send characters south, it's so they can run amok. Connections: <https://assignbuster.com/how-to-read-literature-like-a-professor-essay/>

-Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain: As Huck and Jim travel further south down the Mississippi River, they run into more trouble. Being in the south is important to the story because of the time frame and the situation of Jim, the slave.

If they had been traveling north instead, they would not have run into such trouble. Chapter 21- Marked for Greatness Chapter Summary: -Characters can be as famous for their shape as their behavior. Connections: -Oedipus Rex by Sophocles: The king blinds himself, signifying his guilt. Also, Oedipus means “ Wounded Foot” which showed the reader that the main character had an unusual physical attribute before they even started reading. -

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley: By creating a monster out of human body parts, Dr.

Frankenstein showed us the flaws in human society. When the creature came into contact with other people, they ran and screamed because of the way he looked. He was a freak, even though he was made of the same parts. Chapter 22- He’s Blind for a Reason, You Know Chapter Summary: -If you want your audience of know something important about your character (or the work at large), introduce it early, before you need it.

Connections: -Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett: The first time we meet Lucky and Pozzo, the reader imagines Pozzo as a cruel person. We see him keep Lucky on a leash for no reason. Later, when Pozzo and Lucky return, we are introduced to the fact that Pozzo is blind and needs Lucky to lead him around. While Beckett takes an opposite approach, it completely changes our idea of the character.

-Oedipus Rex by Sophocles: Sophocles leads the reader to believe in a physical wounding by naming his main character Oedipus, meaning “wounded foot.” By knowing this, the reader can automatically understand how the story came to be.