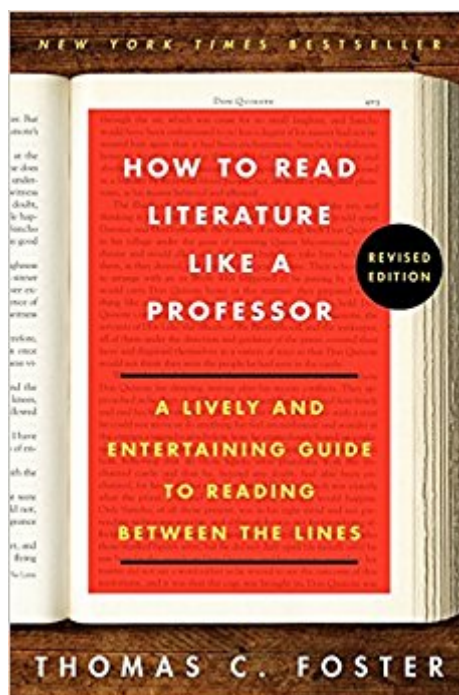




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# How To Read Literature Like A Professor: A Lively And Entertaining Guide To Reading Between The Lines, Revised Edition



## Synopsis

A thoroughly revised and updated edition of Thomas C. Foster's classic guide—a lively and entertaining introduction to literature and literary basics, including symbols, themes and contexts, that shows you how to make your everyday reading experience more rewarding and enjoyable. While many books can be enjoyed for their basic stories, there are often deeper literary meanings interwoven in these texts. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* helps us to discover those hidden truths by looking at literature with the eyes—and the literary codes—of the ultimate professional reader, the college professor. What does it mean when a literary hero is traveling along a dusty road? When he hands a drink to his companion? When he's drenched in a sudden rain shower? Ranging from major themes to literary models, narrative devices and form, Thomas C. Foster provides us with a broad overview of literature—a world where a road leads to a quest, a shared meal may signify a communion, and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just a shower—and shows us how to make our reading experience more enriching, satisfying, and fun. This revised edition includes new chapters, a new preface and epilogue, and incorporates updated teaching points that Foster has developed over the past decade.

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## Customer Reviews

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contexts— that shows you how to make your everyday reading experience more rewarding and enjoyable. While many books can be enjoyed for their basic stories, there are often deeper literary meanings interwoven in these texts. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* helps us to discover those hidden truths by looking at literature with the eyes— and the literary codes— of the ultimate professional reader: the college professor. What does it mean when a literary hero travels along a dusty road? When he hands a drink to his companion? When he's drenched in a sudden rain shower? Ranging from major themes to literary models, narrative devices, and form, Thomas C. Foster provides us with a broad overview of literature— a world where a road leads to a quest, a shared meal may signify a communion, and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just a shower— and shows us how to make our reading experience more enriching, satisfying, and fun. This revised edition includes new chapters, a new preface, and a new epilogue, and incorporates updated teaching points that Foster has developed over the past decade.

Thomas C. Foster is a professor of English at the University of Michigan-Flint, where he teaches contemporary fiction, drama, and poetry as well as creative writing and composition. He is the author of *Twenty-five Books That Shaped America* and several books on twentieth-century British and Irish fiction and poetry. He lives in East Lansing, Michigan.

The 2015 edition is a version published through a self-publishing subsidiary called "CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform". It is missing several sections (example: Preface & Index). The formatting does not match earlier editions (example: statements in Bold and/or Italics that the author used to emphasize in earlier editions are in the same font as the rest of the text in the 2015 edition). We returned the book for a refund.

This is the first book I read that deals with the practice of good reading. It is not intended for people who are well trained in the practice of reading good fiction or poetry, but I think anybody would find here practical recommendations for building a well-read life. It mainly discusses common symbolisms and examples used by important authors to transmit a message, according to their own particular creativity. And at the end there is a chapter with a short story presented as a case in order to better explain what a reader should do as a good practice when dealing with a good work. I do recommend it.

I had to get this for an english course and I actually really enjoyed it. Foster actually makes you want to read the book and gives you good info without boring you haha. Had to close read it but I still enjoyed it. Came in good condition and on time! :)

This book by the literature professor Thomas C. Foster really helped me, as a senior in high school, really understand the types of symbols that I would find in fiction novels. He explained why they represent what they represent, but also explained that there could be more than one thing that they represent. It was engaging, it was like I was right there sitting in his classroom, and it had a comical sense to it as well, making it easier to get through. There were a lot of examples, which was a little annoying seeing as I hadn't read most of the books he set examples to, but I'm sure he put them there for a reason, helping other people since I'm not the only person in the world. I recommend this book to anyone who is a high school or college student in need of help of reading literature like their teachers/professors do. It was very helpful!

I like this book because it gives my AP students a lot of different lenses through which they can look at literature. It's not a be-all-and-end-all of interpretation - interpretation is up to the reader not the experts. Instead, Foster offers some possibilities to consider. True, he makes some blanket statements about some things always symbolizing certain ideas, but I take this with a grain of salt. His easy to read, conversational style makes this easy to do. His theories and interpretations are just more tools to put in one's reader toolbox to use when needed.

Good and interesting, used to prepare for AP English Literature

There are some writer/analysts who increase our reading pleasure by sharing their insights on a particular piece of literature. Foster goes one step beyond and connects the tapestry of "must read" literature into a future and deeper understanding of literature you haven't even read yet! He provides clarity on what makes literature exceptional. You really do end up reading literature like a professor.

I was required to buy this book for English and at first thought of how pointless it would be to read. Not only did I think it would be boring and useless but, I also thought I'd never use the information. Let me tell you: I was wrong. This book had its dry moments but other than that it was pretty interesting. It helped me a lot during English class. Especially, when we had to analyze readings and create stories of our own. It was nice to refer back to the reading and see that there are

symbols in the story I just wrote or to compare two stories by their quests. I thought I'd only use it for English class and that would be it. But, I'm surprised how much I use it outside of English class for my own writing. Just summarize this whole paragraph to these simple words: Buy the book.

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