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# How To Read Literature Like A Professor: For Kids



## Synopsis

The go-to bestselling guide to help young people navigate from a middle school book report to English Comp 101. In *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: For Kids*, New York Times bestselling author and professor Thomas C. Foster gives tweens the tools they need to become thoughtful readers. With funny insights and a conversational style, he explains the way writers use symbol, metaphor, characterization, setting, plot, and other key techniques to make a story come to life. From that very first middle school book report to that first college course, kids need to be able to understand the layers of meaning in literature. Foster makes learning this important skill fun and exciting by using examples from *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* to *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, from short stories and poems to movie scripts. This go-to guide unlocks all the hidden secrets to reading, making it entertaining and satisfying.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 820L (What's this?)

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Best Sellers Rank: #10,048 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Literary Criticism & Collections](#) #14 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Reading & Writing > Composition & Creative Writing](#) #20 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Books & Libraries](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 6-9-This companion to the author's adult titles is geared toward young people who want to get a bit more out of J.K. Rowling or Dr. Seuss. Foster uses both of these authors, along with Shakespeare and Homer (not Simpson), to illustrate various approaches to literature. He argues that there is really only one story, that of a journey or quest, and that it takes shape in many forms,

in novels, plays, and poems. The book also delves into symbolism, irony, and the political and geographical aspects of literature. Readers will enjoy seeing Green Eggs and Ham from Foster's perspective of how food is often more than just a meal. Of course, he also touches on how the Bible, folk and fairy tales, and ancient literature form the basis of many of our favorite stories. His passion for literature is evident, and the text is readable and encouraging. While it would be a rare reader who would be familiar with every title the author cites, the arguments that he poses are solid and the examples are always apt. Students won't find literary research here, but they will find some valuable guidance on how to read critically and hopefully be inspired to read more widely.-Carol Fazioli, Barth Elementary School, Pottstown, PA (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Opening with a quickly and effectively illuminated scene from Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun* and continuing through such high-school syllabus texts as *The Odyssey*, Shakespeare's works, a sonnet by Christina Rossetti, and more, this introduction to literary methods, tropes, and symbols is refreshingly accessible. Without condescension, Foster adapts some of the concepts that he presents in his adult titles, including *How to Read Literature like a Professor* (2003), with kid-friendly examples, such as Dr. Seuss stories that show how a universal literary theme can play out in a specific work without losing its universal meaning. With a closing short story that invites young readers to try out their newfound analytical skills, this slim guidebook can provide language art students with just the right open window to catch the academic breeze of enlightenment without leaving them cold. An essential purchase for all library collections where there are readers new to exploring literature as a fine art, beyond reading for uncritical pleasure. Grades 6-10. --Francisca Goldsmith --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

book was in great condition and grandson had in time for school reading. As any 12 year old, reading isn't is first love!

As an adult, I enjoyed reading this book. I read the chapter on quests to my homeschooled fifth graders, and I think they learned from it. Mostly, however, I think it's for a bit older age level than fifth/sixth grade, so we will hold off on the remainder.

Excellent book for early high school preparation.

I haven't had the pleasure of reading this yet (I'm in the midst of reading his adult version of this book!), but my 10-year-old nephew read it and really liked it. As soon as he'd finished it, he started comparing Harry Potter with WWI & WWII!

Such a boring book

Is a nice way to introduce kids/teens/ even adults to analyzing what they read. Got it for my teens, and enjoyed it myself!

Good information, a bit repetitive.

My daughter needed it for a summer reading project. She seemed to enjoy reading the book as well.

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