Summer Reading 2023-2024

Honors English II - Sophomore

Required Reading:* (2 texts)

• *The Johnstown Flood* by David McCullough

> At the end of the nineteenth century, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, was a booming coal-and-steel town filled with hardworking families striving for a piece of the nation's burgeoning industrial prosperity. In the mountains above Johnstown, an old earth dam had been hastily rebuilt to create a lake for an exclusive summer resort patronized by the tycoons of that same industrial prosperity, among them Andrew Carnegie, Henry Clay Frick, and Andrew Mellon. Despite repeated warnings of possible danger, nothing was done about the dam. Then came May 31, 1889, when the dam burst, sending a wall of water thundering down the mountain, smashing through Johnstown, and killing more than 2,000 people. It was a tragedy that became a national scandal. (Amazon)

> https://www.amazon.com/Johnstown-Flood-David-McCullough/dp/0671207148

• *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C Foster (some mature content)

> 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. (Amazon)
> https://smile.amazon.com/How-Read-Literature-Like-Professor/dp/0062301675/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=how+to+read+literature+like+a+professor&qid=1621623009&sr=8-1

Select one of the following:* (require choice)

• *1984* by George Orwell

• *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline (some mature content)

• *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

• *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

• *True Grit* by Charles Portis

*Students will prepare a presentation over the choice using the concepts from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. It would be wise to read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* before reading the choice novel. You will then be able to look for examples in the choice text as you read it.