

Tenth Grade Summer Reading Assignment

All rising tenth grade students at A. R. Johnson are expected to read two selections for their summer reading assignment:

- Thomas Foster, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*
- J. R. R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit*

Students should obtain a copy of the novel and begin reading as soon as possible to ensure that they have enough time to finish the reading and the required essay. The essay will be due the first week of school in early August and will be followed by a test on the material.

Background

How to Read Literature Like a Professor

This book is a nonfiction piece that breaks down, in very easy to understand language, how students can get more out of their reading experience. For many students, they are able to understand the plot of a book but not the deeper, hidden significance of themes and symbols. This book walks them through that using easy to understand examples from books and films. Students will be able to see how the literature that they will study throughout their tenth grade year (and beyond even into college) is based on a series of patterns that recur.

The Hobbit

Tolkien's novel is the prequel to his epic *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. It is a quest story about a lonely hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, who travels with a group of dwarves and Gandalf the wizard to steal treasure from a dangerous dragon, Smaug. It is a tale of friendship and loyalty that features epic battles and an action-packed storyline. (Please note: Although the recent Peter Jackson films of *The Hobbit* are wonderful supplements, they are not substitutes for reading the book as the films change significant aspects of the novel.)

Your Task

In *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, Thomas C. Foster explains a variety of archetypes including the hero's quest, communion, death, and resurrection. Write an essay on Tolkien's *The Hobbit* where you apply at least one of these archetypes to the novel itself. (For instance, how does Bilbo's journey fit into the tradition of the hero's quest? How does the dinner scene at the beginning of the book symbolize the act of communion? How does the scene with the goblins represent a descent into the underworld?)

Requirements

The essay should be typed and should be written in 12 point Times New Roman font with double spacing. It should be at least two pages in length.

Name: _____ Class Period: _____ Date: _____

Essay Rubric

Remember plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty and is grounds for failure.

	Exemplary	Proficient	Emergent	Not Evident
Textual Evidence (50 pts.)	Student provides a clear thesis statement that is supported with multiple examples from the text. (50 pts.)	Student provides a clear thesis statement that is supported with two examples from the text. (40 pts.)	Student's thesis is not clear or the textual evidence is lacking. (30 pts.)	Student's thesis is not clear with little to no textual evidence. (0-20 pts.)
Conventions (25 pts.)	Student uses correct spelling and punctuation throughout the essay. (25 pts.)	Student has one or two minor errors in spelling and punctuation. (20 pts.)	Student uses some incorrect spelling and punctuation in the essay. (15 pts.)	Student uses frequent incorrect spelling and punctuation in the essay. (0-10 pts.)
Requirements (25 pts.)	Product completely meets requirements for length and formatting. (25 pts.)	Product meets requirements for length but contains one or two formatting errors. (20 pts.)	Product does not meet requirements for length and contains several formatting errors. (15 pts.)	Product is less than 50% of the required length and contains many formatting errors. (0-10 pts.)

Final Score _____