



Dear Class of 2018 (Honors):

I am pleased to welcome you to Senior Honors English. It is a course designed to solidify the skills you have gained in reading works of fiction and non-fiction. The goal is to foster independence and critical thinking when you read - whatever you read. The printed word is powerful. All too often, people believe what they read simply because it appeared in print in the newspaper or online. This course is meant to teach you to be thoughtful, weigh the evidence, analyze the text, and then come to your own conclusion. Throughout the year, your teachers will be encouraging you to read frequently and widely and reflect upon your reading.

We know summer is a time for you to relax, recharge, and enjoy your hard-earned vacation, but we also want you to use your time productively. Therefore, we are requiring students to read **How to Read Literature Like a Professor** by Thomas. C. Foster. This will be followed by the short story "Zolaria" by Caitlin Horrocks and then ONE book of your CHOICE from the list that follows on the next page. Your "Zolaria" assignment is due on the first day of school. During your first week back at school, your English teacher will be assigning an in-class writing assignment on your book of choice -so be prepared!

Students need not like or agree with everything they read. Sometimes a book that provokes dissent is as stimulating as a book that echoes our own thoughts. Our hope is that your summer reading will engage your minds, stimulate thought, and help you to clarify and become more comfortable with your individual and unique perspectives on life. Best wishes for a healthy and productive summer.

Sincerely,

Mica Bloom  
English Department Chair



con·tem·po·rar·y

*adjective*

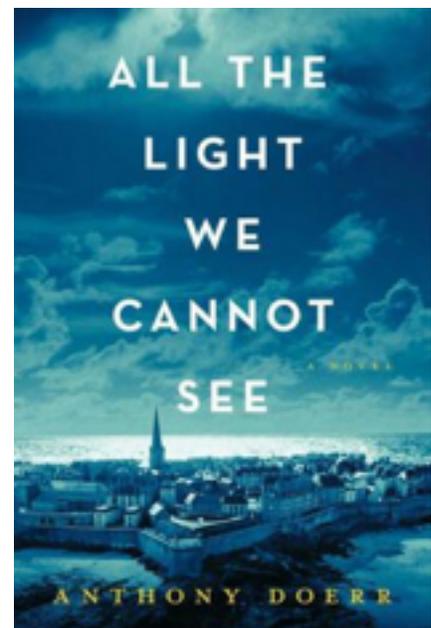
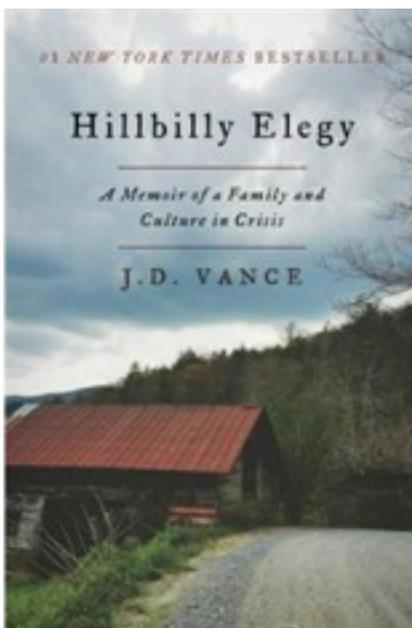
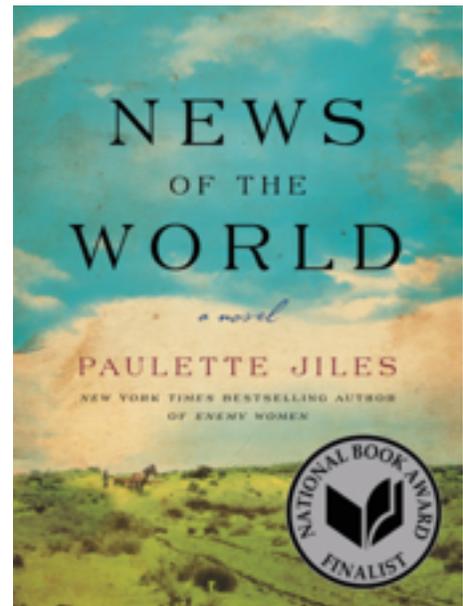
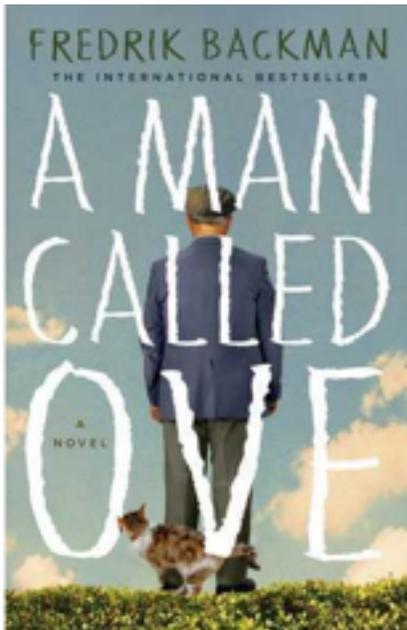
adjective: **contemporary**

1.

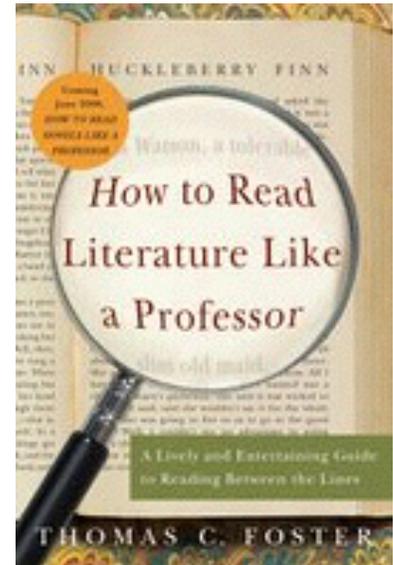
belonging to or occurring in the present."the tension and complexities of our contemporary society"

**CHOOSE ONE:**

**Remember: During your first week at school your teacher will be giving you an in-class writing assignment on ONE of the books below!**



**“To read without reflecting is like eating without digesting” -Edmund Burke**



Assignment:

Part I:

The first step on this journey of understanding and reflection begins with reading the following: **How to Read Like a Professor** by Thomas C. Foster.

Part II:

1. Carefully read the story “Zolaria” by Caitlin Horrocks.

<http://www.caitlinhorrocks.com/files/HorrocksZolaria.pdf>

2. Annotate “Zolaria” using 3-5 of the strategies that you learned about in **How to Read Literature Like a Professor**.

3. Answer the following questions as a cohesive response in 2-3 pages (MLA format):

- What does the story signify?
- What is the author saying in the story? What do you think it means?
- What elements give the story meaning? (Refer to at least 3)
- How do the elements cause the story to mean what it does?

You should have a strong thesis that asserts a clear connection between the meaning of the story and the elements that create the meaning. There is no reason to use personal pronouns - if you’re writing the essay it’s assumed that it represents your thoughts, beliefs, etc.