

English IV Honors
2010 Summer Reading and Writing Assignments
Mount Saint Mary Academy

Instructions:

- Read and annotate both texts prior to fall discussion (some discussions will be student-led, others teacher-led). We will discuss the books in the order they appear below beginning the second week of class;
- Your written response is due by the end of September;
- Responses must be typed, double spaced, and in 12-point font. Page limit is up to you; just answer the question sufficiently.

1) *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines* by Thomas C. Foster

2) *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri

Choose one of the following to answer:

a. Writers often highlight the values of a culture or a society by using characters who are alienated from that culture or society because of gender, race, class, or creed. Choose a scene or story/ies from *Interpreter of Maladies* in which such a character plays a significant role and show how that character's alienation reveals the surrounding society's assumptions or moral values. Avoid plot summary.

b. Some works of literature seem to advocate changes in social or political attitudes or in traditions. Choose such a scene or story/ies from *Interpreter of Maladies* and note briefly the particular attitudes or traditions that the author apparently wishes to comment on or modify. Then analyze the techniques the author uses to influence the reader's or audience's views. Avoid plot summary. (Note this question essentially has two parts: the "what" and the "how.")

N.B.: A Bible and Bulfinch's *Mythology* by Thomas Bulfinch will serve as handy references for much of the literature you'll read in this class. Please use the free electronic version of Bulfinch (<http://www.bartleby.com/bulfinch/>) unless you already own a print copy of it.

Please address any questions or drafts over the summer to jbonk@mountsaintmary.org

Thank you. I am looking forward to meeting all of you in the fall.