***Notes from HOW TO READ LIKE A PROFESSOR:*** These are the concepts highlighted within the text by Thomas Foster (one from each chapter).

*Allegory*: one-on-one comparison/symbol represents one thing or idea

*Symbolism*: range of meanings and interpretations/can be objects, images, events, actions/requires multiple levels of questions to define

*Time and place*: to understand an author’s work one must understand the social and political attitudes of the story and/or the author’s lifetime

*Geography*: humans inhabit spaces and spaces inhabit humans. Geography can develop or define a character. Geography can be a character. Hills and valleys (highs and lows) Authors use environment to shape characters). Place brings the reader to ideas, psychology, history.

*\*\*Seasons*

A reader must have sympathy with the *historical moment* of the story: social, historical, cultural and personal background.

*Flight* is freedom (escape, return home, largeness of spirit, freeing of the spirit, love).

*Being born* is painful (birth and rebirth)…baptism (dying/drowning, new start).

*Physical imperfections*: being different/character differentiation

*Heart*: symbolic repository of emotion

*Disease*: specific to time period (early works: mysterious/later works: ills of society or individual in terms of character)

*Overriding question*: Can this character be saved?

Be on guard for *IRONY*

*Christ figure* (does not have to have every element and can be female)

*Biblical references/Shakespearean references*

*Allusions* to past stories: No story is an original!

*Communion* (interaction on a personal level)

*Vampires and ghosts*: using other people to get what we want