Part One: How to Read Literature Like a Professor, Thomas C. Foster

This text will act as a primer for our study of literature over the course of the year (2014 Ed). Read the text and create an outline of the salient information gleaned and your personal thoughts/connections on the chapters. The outline should be completed in a google document and will be submitted on Canvas. Also, feel free to read Foster’s other helpful texts, How to Read Novels Like A Professor and How to Read Poetry like A Professor.

Part Two: Read EACH novel, annotating for major literary devices. The goal is to create a DATA NOTEBOOK for each text and ultimately come to theme. What to look for immediately: all characters (types and purposes), plot line, all settings, symbols, conflicts (all types), pathetic fallacy, mood, point of view, irony, allusions, flashback, foreshadowing, fig. lang, motifs, themes.

Part Three: Research Ways to Analyze Literature via Critical Theory. You should research each of the following types of criticism and means to approach literature analytically. For each, 1. define the theory and 2. possible texts that you know now that can be applied to such theoretical analysis. Explain your defense in a few paragraphs for each.

A. Biographical Criticism
B. Historical Criticism
C. Psychological Criticism
D. Feminist Criticism
E. Formalism Theory
F. Deconstructionist Theory
G. Reader Response Theory

Part Four: Choose 2 Critical Theories that BEST apply to each SUMMER novel. In a 1-2 page essay per novel, explicate why each theory leads to profound textual meaning as a whole thematically and otherwise.

Part Five: Choose TWO POEMS TO ANALYZE OR Choose TWO characters from each novel. Select what Archetypes best suit each character and explain in a paragraph why that is the case. (6 archetypes total)