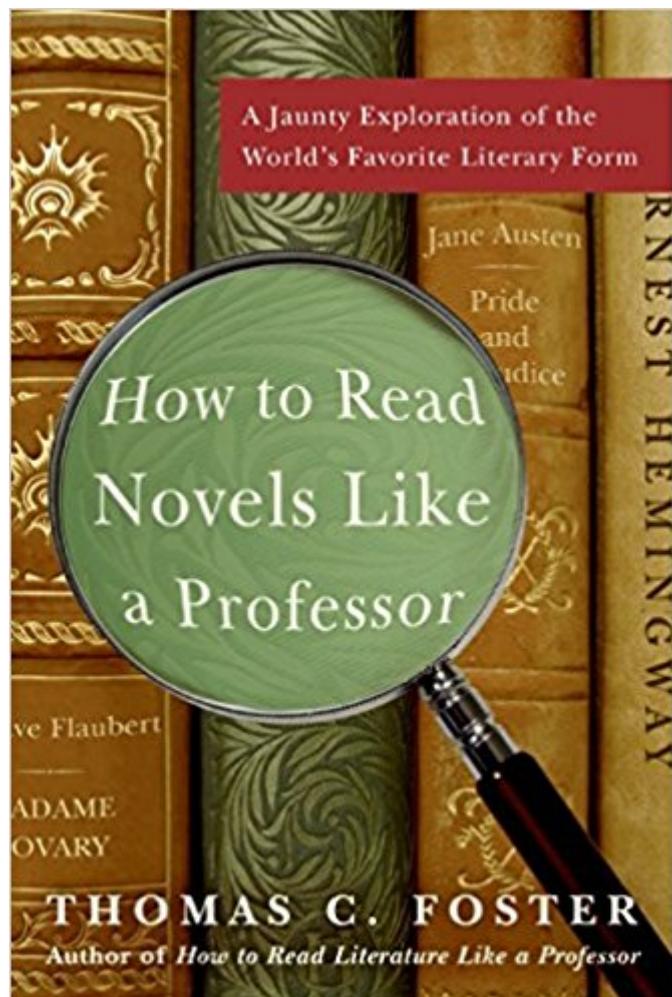


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How To Read Novels Like A Professor: A Jaunty Exploration Of The Worldâ€™s Favorite Literary Form



Synopsis

Of all the literary forms, the novel is arguably the most discussed . . . and fretted over. From Miguel de Cervantes's *Don Quixote* to the works of Jane Austen, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, and today's masters, the novel has grown with and adapted to changing societies and technologies, mixing tradition and innovation in every age throughout history. Thomas C. Foster, "the sage and scholar who ingeniously led readers through the fascinating symbolic codes of great literature in his first book, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*," now examines the grammar of the popular novel. Exploring how authors' choices about structure—point of view, narrative voice, first page, chapter construction, character emblems, and narrative (dis)continuity—create meaning and a special literary language, *How to Read Novels Like a Professor* shares the keys to this language with readers who want to get more insight, more understanding, and more pleasure from their reading.

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Customer Reviews

I am still on the fence about this book. Having read his prior guide, "How to Read Literature...", I was looking very forward to this work as well. Having finished, I am not exactly sure where I stand. To be honest, I was looking forward to something a bit more similar to his first book. This guide has a roughly similar idea, but it really did not do anything for me as far as learning how to read a novel. It was more of a study in novel history, styles, and techniques. It did offer some wonderful insight in why authors do what they do, the choices they make, and experiments they take. The problem is

that Foster did not offer much in how to interpret this. It was like a study in the various ways writers craft their technique and how it differs between them (and time). Which leads me to the next thing...This book, perhaps, should have been titled, "How to Craft Novels Like a Writer", or some other similar idea. There is a lot in here for an aspiring writer, examples of different techniques, character studies, writing styles, plot, theme, and so forth. I got much more out of this book on a writing level than on a reading level. He even references his creative writing classes several times as examples. All of the examples used to try and illustrate how to 'read' a passage was much better used as a writing guideline / example. So, in other words, the book makes a great guide for aspiring writers and for those who want some history and aspects of the novel as a form of lit. If you are looking for something as straightforward as his first book, this does not come close. I know some people had an issue with his 'cookie-cutter' approach in his first work, but that is exactly why it is now being used in the classroom by many teachers, including myself.

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