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Reflection #5 "How to Read Like an English Professor".

In the text, "How to Read Like an English Professor", Thomas Foster describes methods in which to analysis a literary work through a professional lens. Foster describes the ways in which readers can better digest and consume literary works; from in depth analysis of rhetorical devices to finding meaning in a work. In the work, "You Don't Have to Say You Love Me", by Sherman Alexie, Alexie describes his experience as a young Native American man, discovering more about himself due to the passing of his mother. From the small acknowledgments of things such as spoons, to revelations of the death of his culture, Alexie traverses the cycle of grief from unique and bold stance. The numerous metaphors referring to death add immense pain and sorrow to the poem, yet the phrasing Alexie employes is that of bitter indifference. He is spilt on the passing; both viewing the death as a loss of family and a beautiful passing of life. The story also positions the death of his mother as a parallel to the death of his native identity, as part of his culture and tradition died with him. In conclusion, the ways in which we approach a text can determine the impact the text has on a reader. Being more informed as a reader can help us better appreciate the texts we read.