

DHHS AP Literature Summer Reading 2018

Dear AP Literature Student:

Welcome to AP Literature and Composition. I am thrilled that you have chosen to challenge yourself, and I am looking forward to a fantastic year of reading beautiful fiction and poetry. This is the “dreaded” summer reading assignment. I have thought carefully about this assignment and our major text for the beginning of the year is *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley. We will be working with this text throughout the first few weeks of the year, so it is important that you have read this book closely and analytically before you come to school. This text is an excellent example of the type of literature you should be comfortable reading, if you want to be successful on the test. It can be found online and in bookstores everywhere.

When you read *Frankenstein*, I want you to read more deeply and actively than you usually read. Think about the author’s craft as well as the plot. Feel free to read about the novel online on sites such as *Shmoop*, *Sparknotes*, *Lit Charts*, and *Pink Monkey*. However, these sites aren’t substitutes for reading the actual novel. I want to know what you think, not just what you’ve read online. Impress me with your thoughts. **I want you to keep a journal** as you read and **write an essay** when you are done. Your instructions are on the other side or next page if you’re downloading.

Please bring your novel, journal, and essay with you to the first class of the school year for points and activities. Remember, it is very important in AP Lit. to come to class prepared, having done the reading. Much of the class is discussion and it’s hard to participate if you aren’t prepared.

If you have any questions about the summer assignment, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lowe

karen.lowe@washk12.org

Summer Reading Assignment

1. Read the novel *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley.
2. Keep a journal of your thoughts as you read. You need **at least** 30 entries. The entries can be typed or hand-written. The entries should look like this:

A SHORT QUOTE FROM THE BOOK (page #)	Your response to the quote. Don't tell me what it says. I know what it says. Tell me why you chose it. Why do you think it's important? Why did you include it in your journal?
They consulted their village priest, and the result was that Elizabeth Lavenza became the inmate of my parents' house--my more than sister--the beautiful and adored companion of all my occupations and my pleasures (25).	Literally the only reason that Victor's family adopts Elizabeth is that she's pretty. Oh, sure, she's charming—but being charming seems like a subset of being pretty, not something separate. How shallow are the people in this novel? The creature seems the most complex and “human” character in the book.
When I reflected on his crimes and malice, my hatred and revenge burst all bounds of moderation. I would have made a pilgrimage to the highest peak of the Andes, could I when there have precipitated him to their base (123).	Okay, but is there such a thing as "moderate" revenge? Is revenge an emotion that you can even feel moderately—like, wanting a <i>little</i> revenge? Revenge is a central theme of so many works including <i>Hamlet</i> . Claudius says, “Revenge should have no bounds.” He’s the villain so Shakespeare doesn’t want us to agree with him.

3. When you have finished reading the novel, please write an essay in answer to **ONE** of these old AP test questions about *Frankenstein*. This should be typed, double spaced:
 - a. Select a novel that features a character whose origins are unusual or mysterious. Then write an essay in which you analyze **how** those origins shape the character and that character’s relationships, and **how** the origins shape the novel as a whole.
 - b. In a literary work, a minor character, often known as a foil, possesses traits that emphasize, by contrast or comparison, the distinctive characteristics and qualities of the main character. For example, the ideas or behavior of the minor character might be used to highlight the weaknesses or strengths of the main character. Choose a character foil in this novel and write an essay in which you analyze **how** the relation between the minor character and the major character illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole. Do NOT merely summarize the plot.

These assignments (journal and essay) are due the first day of class.