

AP Literature Summer Reading Assignments 2021-22

Follow the directions on fpdmacon.org regarding self-selected reading. In addition, you will read

***1984* by George Orwell AND *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley**

You must read each book carefully, annotating each book as you read. Annotations should show close reading of the novel and include commentary as well as underlining/circling, etc.

If you do not know what to write for annotations, you might want to read the questions below before reading and mark passages that will help you write or responses. Also, you might want to use the SQuEAL method:

- **Summary:** explain what is happening in the story. You might also explain the **significance** of these events, especially in later chapter when the picture becomes more clear.
- **Questions:** ask a specific question about the story or about why an author wrote it the way he/she did.
- **Emotions:** tell how the events in the story make you feel. Do you think the character is making good choices?
- **Analysis:** discuss the theme, point of view, setting, conflict, or literary devices such as tone, diction, imagery, syntax, overall writing style.
- **Links:** tell how events in the story relate to your life or the lives of people you have heard of or to characters in other books, plays, movies, or tv shows.

If you have questions over the summer about this assignment, feel free to contact me at andrew.katzer@fpdmacon.org.

You must answer the following questions about each book and be prepared to turn them in on turnitin.com on the due dates listed below. You can expect quizzes and tests over each book.

SUMMER READING QUESTIONS—Respond to each of the following items. Responses should be typed in 12-point Times New Roman or Calibri font and double spaced. Each response should be ¾ to 1 page and should include at least one quote from the novel for support.

***1984* by George Orwell (questions and annotated book due Friday, August 13)**

1. Throughout the novel, the Party uses Newspeak to control its members. Do you think it is possible to control people by adding or subtracting certain words from a language? Do words have importance to you personally? Explain your answer.
2. There are various examples throughout the novel of the Party changing history or entirely wiping out people's memories? Why do they do this? Why should historical facts and memories be important and valuable to you?
3. How does the Party use fear to manipulate its members? How do people feel knowing Big Brother is always watching them? How do you feel knowing God is watching you? Is it a fearful feeling or a comforting one? How do God's methods of working in your life differ from Big Brother's influence in the lives of Party members?
4. Take one of the Party slogans (War is Peace, Freedom is Slavery, Ignorance is Strength) from *1984* and explain how it is meant to affect the people of Oceania. Then explain how it is similar to something specific you see happening in our culture today.

5. [SPOILER] Towards the end of the novel, O'Brien asks Winston:

"Do you believe in God, Winston?"

"No."

"Then what is it, this principle that will defeat us?"

"I don't know. The spirit of Man."

Is the "Spirit of Man" enough to defeat the Party? Why or why not? Is the "Spirit of Man" enough for you to overcome obstacles in your own life? Why or why not?

6. What, in your opinion, are the worst parts of the world created in *1984*? Would God allow a world like the one in *1984* to exist, or would He step in and overthrow such a culture? Would living in a world like the one in *1984* change your beliefs? Explain your answer.

***Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley (questions and annotated book due Friday, August 20)**

1. Look at *Frankenstein* as an example of **Gothic Literature**. Some of the characteristics of **gothic literature** are:

- use of intense emotion
- the characterization of nature as a powerful and destructive force
- the use of weather and atmosphere to depict mood
- the evocation of terror and horror
- an emphasis on eerie and supernatural
- horrifying and terrifying events
- evokes sympathy for the outcast
- a passion-driven, willful villain-hero or villain

Find evidence in the text that *Frankenstein* contains some of the criteria above. Provide a direct quote from the novel that clearly demonstrates the use of the gothic element and explain how the quote demonstrates the use of the gothic element.

2. Who is **tragic hero** in the novel – Frankenstein or the monster? Explain how one of the characters meets each of the criteria listed above. Provide specific **text evidence** to demonstrate how the character meets each of the criteria.

According to Aristotle's definition, a character qualifies as a **tragic hero** according to following criteria:

- The character is neither completely good nor completely bad.
- The character falls from good fortune.
- The cause of the character's downfall is a **tragic flaw** – a fundamental character weakness, such as destructive pride, ruthless ambition, or jealousy.
- The character recognizes his/her own error and accepts the consequences.
- The audience feels that the character's punishment exceeds the crime, that the character gets more than he/she deserves.

3. Your "Christian name" is your full name, the name you family gives you. Why is the monster never given a Christian name? What does this suggest? What names is he called throughout the novel? Why?

4. In Chapters 7 and 8, Shelley seems to be making a comment about the system of law and justice during her time through the trial of Justine. What tone does Shelley take toward the idea of justice? Support our statements with examples.

5. Compare and contrast the relationship between Frankenstein and his creation with the relationship between God and humanity, especially in the first 3 chapters of Genesis. What might Shelley have been trying to say about the relationship between God and mankind with his novel?