

AP Literature Summer Reading Assignments 2023-24

Follow the directions on fpdmacon.org regarding your faculty selection book. 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.

I. ANNOTATING TEXT—As you are reading, you should also annotate the text in your book. Annotating the text is a powerful strategy to comprehend literature; it will not only help you actively read, it will also aid in your discussion participation and literary analysis skills.

ANNOTATION GUIDE

Inside front cover: Keep a character list with a small space for character summary and page references for key scenes, moments of character development, etc.

Inside back cover: Make note of your thoughts about themes, allusions, imagery, motifs, key scenes, etc. *List page numbers/references as you read.*

Chapter Summaries: Make sure to summarize the chapters either at the beginning of each chapter or the end. This should be a 3 or 4 sentence summary of the plot in that chapter.

Underline: As you read, underline, or highlight, anything that strikes you as memorable or significant. When you mark something in the text, **you should also write something in the margin to remind yourself why you marked it in the first place.**

What makes a moment significant?

That's up to you as a reader/interpreter/thinker. If you are stuck, consider moments that:

- reveal a truth about a character, the theme of the novel, or life in general.
- indicate a major change in the character, tone, plot, etc.
- demonstrate the writer's craft (consider major literary devices).
- strike a chord in you or grab your attention, for whatever reason.

Circle Vocabulary: Circle words 4 words per chapter that are unfamiliar to you or that strike you as unusual. Look up words that seem essential to an understanding of the meaning or the sense of the author. Write a synonym in the margin next to the circled word.

Questions: Actively engage the text by writing at least 1-2 open-ended questions for each chapter of the book. Also, any question that pops up in your head as you read, write it in the margins.

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 $\frac{3}{4}$ 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 11)

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 18)

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?