

AP Literature Summer Reading Assignments 2022-23

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

1984 by George Orwell
AND
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

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.

II. SUMMER READING QUESTIONS—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.

Choose one of the following essay prompts for each novel. Responses should be typed in 12-point Times New Roman or Calibri font and double spaced. Each essay should be 750-1000 words and should include at least one quote from the novel for support in each body paragraph.

See next page for essay prompts.

1984 by George Orwell (annotated book and one of the following essays due Thursday, August 18)

A. Some novels and plays seem to advocate changes in social or political attitudes or in traditions. Explain the particular attitudes or traditions that *1984* apparently wishes to modify. Then analyze the techniques the George Orwell uses to influence the reader's or audience's views. Avoid plot summary.

B. In some works of literature, a character who appears briefly, or does not appear at all, is a significant presence. Write an essay in which you show how such a character functions in *1984*. You may wish to discuss how the character affects action, theme, or the development of other characters. Avoid plot summary.

C. A symbol is an object, action, or event that represents something or that creates a range of associations beyond itself. In literary works a symbol can express an idea, clarify meaning, or enlarge literal meaning. Focusing on one symbol in *1984*, write an essay analyzing how that symbol functions in the novel and what it reveals about the characters or themes of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

***Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley (annotated book and one of the following essays due Thursday, August 25)**

A. In many works of literature, a physical journey – the literal movement from one place to another – plays a central role. Choose a novel, play, or epic poem in which a physical journey is an important element and discuss how the journey adds to the meaning of the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary.

B. In some works of literature, childhood and adolescence are portrayed as times graced by innocence and a sense of wonder; in other works, they are depicted as times of tribulation and terror. Focusing on a single novel or play, explain how its representation of childhood or adolescence shapes the meaning of the work as a whole.

C. Many works of literature feature characters who have been given a literal or figurative gift. The gift may be an object, or it may be a quality such as uncommon beauty, significant social position, great mental or imaginative faculties, or extraordinary physical powers. Yet this gift is often also a burden or a handicap. Select a character from a novel, epic, or play who has been given a gift that is both an advantage and a problem. Then write a well-developed essay analyzing the complex nature of the gift and how the gift contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.

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