

Public Schools of Edison Township
English Honors: 10th to 11th grade
Study Guide for Summer Reading

Dear Student:

You are expected to read the following texts: *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley, and *1984*, by George Orwell.

Keep a journal or reading log in which you record your observations, reactions, and questions. Write 2 typed pages maximum per novel (for a total of 4 typed pages maximum).

Journal comments and questions will be the basis for the class discussion of the novel. DO NOT write a plot summary. It is important that your journal be a record of your impressions, connections, ideas, and questions. Please do not write something about each chapter; a page or two typed is sufficient. These journals will be collected and counted as a homework grade for the first marking period. It is expected that students will be prepared to discuss and write about both novels in September.

Use the accompanying list of “sentence starters” if you are unsure of what to write in your log. These are merely suggestions; it is unnecessary to use all of them.

There will be an essay administered in September. This essay topic encompasses the ideas and themes of both novels. This essay will count as a major assignment grade for the first marking period.

These two novels are both clever and entertaining, so try to read for enjoyment. Have a good summer! I look forward to meeting you in September.

Responding to Literature

As you read, write your personal responses to the work. Record your thoughts, feelings, reactions, and questions about the plot, characters, setting, symbols, theme or any other elements of the works which are meaningful to you. Do not be overly concerned with mechanics.

Try to take some risks in your responses; be honest and write about what you like or dislike, what is confusing or unusual to you. Tell what you think something means. It is not important to be completely right as it is to show you are thinking. Discuss samples of the writing that you particularly like, or find annoying. Make predictions about the future, or connections to other works that you have read. Use your personal experiences and observations to understand the novel.

If you like, write brief passages from the work and respond to them. Try to relate this work to another you have read. How are they similar? What do they have in common?

DO NOT WRITE A PLOT SUMMARY!

The following is a list of suggested "sentence starters" that you may use if you choose:

1. I wonder what this means...
2. I don't understand this part because...
3. I like/dislike this idea/character/event because...
4. This character reminds me of _____ because...
5. I think the setting is important because...
6. The character I most admire is _____ because...
7. This section is particularly effective because...
8. I think the relationship between _____ and _____ is interesting because...
9. The ideas here remind me of...
10. I wish the author would have...
11. The reading is difficult/fairly easy because...
12. The basic premise of the novel is _____ because...
13. I never thought about this before, but...
14. A question I have is...
15. This work reminds me of...
16. The novel seems realistic/unrealistic because...
17. This book is appealing because...
18. The language of the work is...
19. A weakness of the work is...
20. As I read this book, I couldn't help but be reminded of...