

Advanced Placement English: Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignment Summer 2023

The purpose of summer reading assignment is complex:

- To help build confidence and competence as readers of complex texts.
- To give you, when you enter the class in the fall, an immediate basis for discussion of literature- elements like theme, narrative, viewpoint, symbolism, plot structure, etc.
- To set up a basis for comparison with other works we will read during the year.
- To provide you with the beginnings of a repertoire of works you can write about on the AP Lit exam next spring.
- To prepare for analyzing and writing poetry essays.

Summer Reading - Novel Assignment & Poetry Assignment

- Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- Assigned chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*ⁱ by Thomas Foster.
- Two assigned poems (see directions)
- "How to Read a Poem"

I. **Novel Assignment**

- Before you read *Frankenstein*: Read Chapter 21 from Foster's book paying attention to what he says about *Frankenstein*.
- After you read *Frankenstein*: **Apply the following chapters from Foster's book to *Frankenstein*.**
 - ◆ Chapter 1— "Every Trip Is a Quest"
 - ◆ Chapter 7— "...or The Bible"
 - ◆ Chapter 9 — "It's Greek to Me" (think Prometheus)
 - ◆ Chapter 10— "It's More Than Just Rain or Snow"
 - ◆ Chapter 11— "...More Than It's Gonna Hurt You: Concerning Violence"
 - ◆ Chapter 12— "Is That a Symbol?"
 - ◆ Chapter 19— "Geography Matters..."
 - ◆ Chapter 20— "...So Does Season"
 - ◆ Chapter 25— "Don't Read with Your Eyes"
- Respond to each chapter by writing a well-developed paragraph that explains the main points Foster is making and show how they apply to Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (150 word minimum).

ⁱFree online version of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*

http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/huron.english/files/howtoreadliteraturelikeaprofessor_ft.pdf

Project Gutenberg provides online copies of the classics.

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/84/84-h/84-h.htm>

If you choose this option, please print a paper copy for class ☺

II. Poetry Assignment

1. Read "How to Read a Poem"
<http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/ReadingPoetry.html#starting>
2. Carefully peruse this annotated example of Seamus Heaney's "Digging":
<https://nijheer.files.wordpress.com/2011/01/diggingannotated0001.jpg>
3. Select **two** of the poems listed below, download, and annotate them. **Use the same degree of analysis depicted in the provided example (Seamus Heaney's "Digging").**

When the school year starts, you will use one or both of your annotated poems to write an essay. The more that you annotate them, the easier it will be to write the essays.

Poetry Choices -

- (1) "Storm Warnings" by Adrienne Rich, <https://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/michael.ronan/huma1301-1/chapter-36-new-york-skyscraper-culture-and-the-jazz-age/storm-warnings-by-adrienne-rich/view>
- (2) "The Author to Her Book" by Anne Bradstreet,
<https://www.sunydutchess.edu/faculty/oneill/annebradstreet.pdf>
- (3) "Blackberry-Picking" by Seamus Heaney, <https://www.poetryoutloud.org/poem/blackberry-picking/>
- 4) "Thou Blind Man's Mark" by Sir Phillip Sidney. <http://www.luminarium.org/renlit/blindman.htm>