

Gothic Fiction

SUMMER READING

2026 – 2027

The Haunting of Hill House by Shirley Jackson

- **Series:** Penguin Classics
- **Paperback:** 208 pages
- **Publisher:** Penguin Classics; 1 edition (November 28, 2006)
- **Language:** English
- **ISBN-10:** 0143039989
- **ISBN-13:** 978-0143039983



(NOTE* The image might be different)

For your summer reading, you will annotate for the following information while you read:

- ② **Character development** ~ If a character changes in a significant way, how do they change? Why do they change? Purpose of the change for the story? How does the author want us to view the change? If you are tracking a particular character, you may simply use his or her name or initials to identify important developments, revealing dialogue or action.
- ② **Themes/Big Ideas** ~ What are the author's concerns? What is his/her message about how we should live, how we should treat others, what our society should prioritize, look like, etc.? Formulate these themes into a complete sentence and then use a shorthand word or abbreviation to annotate things in the text that are relevant to each theme.
- ② **Literary Devices** ~ How does the author use imagery, symbolism, allegory, archetypes, metaphor, etc.? How does it make the work more effective? What effect does the author intend it to have and how does it contribute to the author's purpose in writing the work?

Choose the BEST method for YOURSELF to annotate! You know yourself best – use your system. As seniors, I am expecting you to annotate – whether or not I check them.

*****Please note that Gothic Fiction deals with mature concepts and disturbing imagery because its very nature is to induce fear and discomfort. We will be dealing with suicide, murder, abuse, and sexual misconduct all year.***

You are also welcome to email me at any time over the summer as I will be checking email at least twice a week for questions. crousseau@amsacs.org

We will also be writing a rough draft of your college essay this summer. This is a very rough draft – just to get you started. We will be working on these throughout the first couple of weeks but you need a rough draft to begin.

Choose one of the prompts below and write a 250 – 650 personal essay.

Below is the full set of Common App essay prompts for 2026-27.

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design