

AP Literature student:

First, let me offer you my congratulations on choosing to take a college-level course in high school! Before you head out on summer break, I want to take some time to make sure that you have a clear picture of the nature of this course and the work that it will entail.

The Advanced Placement English Literature courses are designed for students wishing to advance their understanding of the art of reading critically and writing effectively. This course will require you to read a variety of prose and poetry pieces spanning many different literary genres. The study of these pieces are used to aid your development and to help you become a more mature writer.

This course will be spent in preparation for the AP Exam in May. This exam will allow you the opportunity to try for up to six college credit (depending on which college you plan on attending).

Your journey in this course starts with the summer reading. You are going to be reading and thoroughly annotating chapters 1-5 of *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley as well as filling out a portion of a novel study guide to help you retain details that we will use to study the novel as a class. Annotations should be detailed and show that you spent time and effort annotating the text. See attached rules for how to annotate.

*Most students purchase their own copies of the novels we read in AP Literature, while this is not a requirement it is HIGHLY recommended so that you can annotate in them. Please purchase the Barnes and Noble edition of *Frankenstein* so that we all have the same text. I have called the Barnes and Noble at San Tan and ordered 100 copies of the novel. **Please make sure that you have the correct copy!** If you have a different copy than the one below, it will be very difficult for you to follow along in class discussions.

Frankenstein can also be ordered online through amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com in addition to other sites. You can also purchase it at the bookstore, but please **do not wait until the last minute as they can sometimes be difficult to find in the stores due to the large amount of students reading them.** Please also note that you can not use a novel from a graduated student (for example, if your sibling was in AP Lit previously, you can't use their novels).



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Assignments for *Frankenstein*

Annotations:

On **Friday, August 2nd** you will be required to show that you have thoroughly annotated (see provided reference page) chapters 1-5 of *Frankenstein*.

Novel Study Guide:

On **Friday, August 2nd**, you will be required to show that you have completed Ch 1-5 from the novel study guide.

The novel study guide is on my Google classroom page. It will be posted as a Google document. Please open and download the document, and save it on your computer. Do not just start typing into the Google document before downloading it because it is shared with all of the other AP students. You should type your answers into your downloaded document. Please do not print off the study guide and try to squeeze your answers in.

Your answers should be complete sentences and show that 1. you read the text, 2. you analyzed the text, and 3. that you took time to answer each question in depth. I will be grading your novel study guide based on these criteria. REMEMBER: this will be used to facilitate our class discussions; your answers should be in depth, so you will remember the details of the novel.

Google Classroom and Remind:

You need to sign up for my Google Classroom. You will find all the summer assignments and announcements here. The enrollment key is **h6isegy**.

I also might need to communicate with you over the summer. Please sign up for Remind. Here is a link that will sign you up remind.com/join/cvhslit. You can also sign up by following these directions: text @cvhslit to the number 81010.

If you are considering or know you want to complete the 102 portion of the class to receive 102 credit, congratulations! Here is some information about the course that you need to know:

- Your summer assignment and due dates are exactly the same as the regular AP Literature course.
- In order to receive the 102 credit for this class, you must have received a passing score (4 or 5) on your AP Language exam. You won't know your score until July, but that won't affect your summer work.
- The 102 portion of the class will be spread out over the course of the **WHOLE** year so our brains won't explode trying to squeeze the AP Literature and 102 into one semester. The work is four research essays, one per quarter.
- You will also have to pay the course fee if you are going to get the 102 credit. This information will be disseminated at the beginning of the school year.

I am really looking forward to having you in class next year, and I hope that you have an enjoyable summer!

If you have any questions over the summer, please do not hesitate to send me an e-mail at Jennifer.plunk@gilbertschools.net

Thank you.

Ms. Plunk
Mr. Zona

AP Literature Instructors

Close Reading of a Text: How to Annotate

It is easy to read a novel simply for plot summary. Your job as an AP Literature student is to read each novel/poem/play/novella closely and deeply for more than just plot. Over the summer, you are required to do a close reading of *Frankenstein*. **One of your assignments (already explained above) is to annotate *Frankenstein*.** Here are some tips to help you this summer when you are annotating.

1. Write in your book! Many students are scared to write in the margins of their book but don't be! Underline and/or circle text you encounter that seems important. Jot down some of your thoughts in the margins. These should be questions, comments, and/or dialogue with the text itself.
2. You must comment on the annotations that you make. You can not simply highlight. If you only highlight and do not have comments in the margins, I will NOT GIVE YOU ANY POINTS! I will assume that you did not read the text and just went through it and highlighted.
3. Use a pen with a sharp point to make notes in the margins easier to read.

Pitfalls:

Highlighting/Underlining/Circling everything you read

Highlighting/Underlining/Circling without notes in the margins

Avoiding Pitfalls

1. Plot Summary Syndrome: This assumes that the main task is simply recalling what happened. Plot summary is just one of the requirements of a close reading, not the intended goal.
2. Right Answer Roulette: This assumes that fiction is a "no win" game in which the student writer is forced to try to guess the RIGHT ANSWER that only the professor knows. Just try your best to understand what the author might be trying to say.
3. The "Everything is Subjective" Shuffle: This assumes that ANY interpretation of any literary piece is purely whimsy or personal taste. It ignores the necessity of testing each part of an interpretation against the whole text, as well as the need to validate each idea by reference to specifics from the text or quotations and discussion from the text. There is a correct way to read a piece of literature, but there is always room for personal interpretation.