

AP ENGLISH 4 —SUMMER READING
Mrs. Jordan

HE WHO DOES NOT READ REMAINS FOREVER A CHILD.
HE WHO DOES NOT READ KNOWS ONLY HIS OWN GENERATION.
—ANONYMOUS

Welcome to the Great Conversation and to your summer reading assignment for AP English 4! The national AP examination requires extensive preparation and reading. Your summer assignment is an important part of that preparation to help you grow as a reader and thinker. Reading is a way of participating in the great conversation of ideas that has existed over the centuries. Books and authors often “talk” to each other as well as their readers. You become part of that dialogue and that history of intellectual interaction when you read an important book.

The national AP test always has three essay questions and about 60 multiple-choice questions. One of the essay questions is always an open-ended one, which asks you to select a literary work that is appropriate for the question. Take a minute to examine real AP essay questions from previous national exams. They illustrate the three main directions of our coursework: reading, writing, and thinking.

Actual AP Literature essay question:

1. In questioning the value of literary realism, Flannery O’Connor has written, “I am interested in making a good case for distortion because I am coming to believe that it is the only way to make people see.” Write an essay in which you “make a good case for distortion,” as distinct from literary realism. Analyze how important elements of the work you chose are “distorted” and explain how these distortions contribute to the effectiveness of the work.
2. Choose a novel, play, or long poem in which a scene or character awakens “thoughtful laughter” in the reader. Write an essay in which you show why this laughter is “thoughtful” and how it contributes to the meaning of the work.

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT:

The summer assignment will be broken into two sections. The first will be a test over *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. The second is over *Frankenstein* and is worth a major test grade as well, but consists of an objective exam (50%) and a journal (50%).

1. *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde (Dover Thrift Edition, Hastings \$1.00)
2. *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley (Enriched Classic, Pocket Book, Hastings \$3.95)

WHAT YOU MUST TURN IN BY FRIDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK:

The first grade of the fall semester will be based on a summer reading journal for *Frankenstein*. The journal should have separate sections for the following divisions:

I. Author background (Literary/Historical Connections)

Research Mary Shelley and present your findings in a two-page report. Be sure to include a Works Cited page for any sources used.

II. One paragraph précis (Summarizing)

A précis is a careful synopsis.

LIMIT: exactly 50 words (every word counts as a word)

III. Significant issues (Analysis)

Copy or photocopy 5 key passages. Explain each passage and its significance to the book. Length must be a minimum of one page.

IV. Style and tone (Description)

Write a one to two page description of the style of the author. Use at least three adjectives to describe the tone.

V. Personal response (Creative)

Create a poem, song or informal journal entry as a creative response to a specific event or character in the book.

VI. Five essay questions-written by you about the work. (Critical Thinking)

These questions are the most important measure of the depth of thought given by the reader to the text.

You only have to write the questions, NOT answer them. Questions for which you have no answers at this time are best. Do NOT write questions that can be answered with one word or phrase.

The summer journal should be in a FOLDER (with brads) when turned in and must be typed according to MLA manuscript guidelines. Please do NOT use an MLA heading for each page, rather make a MLA coversheet for the entire project and use dividers for each section. If you have any questions over the assignment during the summer, feel free to send me an email. I will try to reply as soon as possible. My email address is kjordan@huntsville-isd.org.