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**AP Literature and Composition
2023-2024 Summer Reading Assignments**

The following assignments will be collected on the first day of school, August 23, 2022. Be prepared to take a test within the first full week of school after summer break (August 28th – September 1st). This practice exam will test your knowledge of both of your summer reading books within the AP Literature and Composition format and expectations.

You are responsible for obtaining a copy of your selected novel from Summer Reading Assignment #1. It is suggested that you purchase a copy of the novel so that you can highlight and annotate during reading. However, you may borrow a copy of the novel from a local library. The novel for Summer Reading Assignment #2, *Frankenstein*, will be supplied to you before the end of the school year. You are responsible for bringing this novel with you on the first day of school.

Please have **printed** copies of both summer reading assignments with you on the first day of school; *electronic submissions will not be accepted*.

If you have any questions or concerns over summer break, please feel free to send me an email.

Summer Reading Assignment #1

Your first summer reading assignment will be a novel of your choice from the list below. You must select one OPEN RESPONSE essay question from the attached list and apply it to this reading. Your essay must be typed—size 12, Times New Roman, double-spaced. Your essay must also include a minimum of THREE quotes from your novel (proper MLA in-text citations required for quotes).

Anna Karenina – Leo Tolstoy

The Bluest Eye – Toni Morrison

Invisible Man – Ralph Ellison

As I Lay Dying – William Faulkner

Wuthering Heights – Emily Bronte

Great Expectations – Charles Dickens

Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte

Open Response Questions

#1 Morally ambiguous characters - characters whose behavior discourages readers from identifying with them as purely good or purely evil - are at the heart of many works of literature. Choose a novel or play in which a morally ambiguous character plays a pivotal role. Then write an essay in which you explain how the character can be viewed as morally ambiguous and why his or her moral ambiguity is significant to the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary.

#2 Novels and plays often depict characters caught between colliding cultures – national, regional, ethnic, religious, institutional. Such collisions can call a character’s unique sense of identity into question. Select a novel or play in which a character responds to such a cultural collision. Then write a well-organized essay in which you describe the character’s response and explain its relevance to the work as a whole.

#3 The most important themes in literature are sometimes developed in scenes in which a death or deaths take place. Choose a novel or play and write a well-organized essay in which you show how a specific death scene helps to illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary.

#4 One of the strongest human drives seems to be a desire for power. Write an essay in which you discuss how a character in a novel or drama struggles to free himself or herself from the power of others or seeks to gain power over others. Be sure to demonstrate in your essay how the author uses this power struggle to enhance the meaning of the work.

#5 In many works of literature, a physical journey – the literal movement from one place to another – plays a central role. Choose a novel, play or epic poem in which a physical journey is an important element and discuss how the journey adds to the meaning of the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary.

#6 In many works of literature, past events can effect, positively or negatively, the present actions, attitudes, or values of a character. Choose a novel or play in which a character must contend with some aspect of the past, either personal or societal. Then write an essay in which you show how the character’s relationship to the past contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.

#7 Works of literature often depict acts of betrayal. Friends and even family may betray a protagonist; main characters may likewise be guilty of treachery or may betray their own values. Select a novel or play that includes such acts of betrayal. Then, in a well written essay, analyze the nature of the betrayal and show how it contributes to the work as a whole.

#8 Writers often highlight the values of a culture or a society by using characters who are alienated from that culture or society because of gender, race, class, or creed. Choose a novel or

a play in which such a character plays a significant role and show how that character's alienation reveals the surrounding society's assumptions or moral values.

#9 Some novels and plays seem to advocate changes in social or political attitudes or in traditions. Choose such a novel or play and note briefly the particular attitudes or traditions that the author apparently wishes to modify. Then analyze the techniques the author uses to influence the reader's or audience's views. Avoid plot summary.

Summer Reading Assignment #2

Your second summer reading assignment will be *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley. While reading this novel, you must keep an Interactive Reading Log. You are required to submit a minimum of fifteen log entries. Record the date and pages read with each log. As you read, write a brief summary (no more than a paragraph) of significant events, character changes, plot developments, etc. Your summary should be written on the left side of the log. On the right side, record your response to the text (also about one paragraph in length). You cannot be wrong in your responses, as these reflect your personal reactions to the text. Make predictions about what might happen later. What questions do you have? Do you find any situations to be morally wrong? What themes do you see emerging and developing? Do not simply record your questions in this section; if you do pose a question, then you should articulate a reasonable prediction that answers your question. This is an opportunity to highlight your ability to analyze and connect to text. Your interactive log should be typed and follow the requirements outlined below.

Interactive Log Format

Date and Pages Read	Summary	Interactive Response
Minimum of 15 entries	-5 sentence minimum – Objective only (no use of personal pronouns)	-7 sentence minimum; most include a minimum of 1 quote per entry (proper MLA in-text citation required) -Personal pronouns may be used in this section