

Summer Reading: AP English Lit. 12

Reading High School

Teacher: Thamann

Complete these exercises after reading each novel. All assignments will be due on the first day of class. Late work will not be accepted. If you have any questions, I will check my e-mail throughout the summer. You can reach me at sthamann@readingschool.org.

1. *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

Answer each of the following questions with an EXTENDED response. All responses must be typed. You should cite from the text in each response and include page numbers.

1. Frankenstein often offers a subtitle of “The Modern Prometheus”. Explain why Shelley would use this subtitle by comparing Frankenstein to Prometheus.
2. Examine the relationship between Victor and the monster. Compare their relationship to a modern day, real-life relationship.
3. Beyond the relationship mentioned in #2, explain one other theme from the novel. How does Shelley develop this theme? What is her comment to society through this theme? **We cannot have a “theme” without the author’s commentary.** What is Shelley trying to teach us with this novel?

2. *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Respond to the following prompts with an extended response. All responses must be typed. You should cite from the text in each response and include page numbers.

1. Analyze the character of Hester. Is she a sympathetic character? Is she a heroine? Or is she a contemptible character? Explain your analysis and provide examples from the text.
2. Analyze the character of Mr. Dimmesdale. Is he a sympathetic character? Is he a hero? Or is he a contemptible character? Explain your analysis and provide examples from the text.
3. Analyze the character of Pearl. She is not a major character, but explore what role she plays within the novel. What purpose does she serve? Explain your analysis and provide examples from the text. Original thought is valuable; do not fear thinking for yourself.

3. *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson

1. Stevenson gives us a physical representation of the idea of duality (2 halves to one whole). Explore and apply this idea of duality to *Frankenstein* and *The Scarlet Letter*. Be specific with your examples. You should cite from all three texts in your response
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Write an extended response to the following Discussion Topics. Consider both novels within each response. All answers must be typed and double-spaced.

Discussion Topics:

Environment:

Environment is not always the physical surrounding or background in a novel. Consider the human environment for each of our protagonists. What role does environment play in each novel? How does the environment help drive the narrative?

Perspective:

From which perspective are the stories told? First person? Third person? Omniscient? Limited? Would the novel be better with a different perspective? Why / why not?

Theme:

Theme is an idea that the author develops throughout a novel. Theme is intended to either create a discussion of a controversial topic, OR it serves as a commentary from the author. Each novel can have multiple themes. Identifying and analyzing authors' theme will be a serious focus of this class.

Identify at least two themes within each novel. Compare themes from one novel to the other?
