

A.P. ENGLISH LIT SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT 2018

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Edmodo.com

Class: AP Lit 2018-2019

class code: tjaepk

Welcome to Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition!

"The word
was born in the blood,
grew in the dark body, beating,
and flew through the lips and the mouth."
~ Pablo Neruda

All documents will be found on the Edmodo site for AP Lit 2018-2019 using the class code above
Please email me if you have any problems accessing it

NON-FICTION Assignment:

On the Edmodo page, you will find excerpts taken from a book entitled *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster (revised edition, 2014). It is a guide written by a professor in a tone that is trying to appeal to young people. He may sound corny at times (you know, like when old people try to sound "cool"), but it's really a charming little book filled with terrific insights. He writes about works that you may not have read yet, and he gives away some of the endings of works we will be reading, but it is a small price to pay for some great info!

Everyone should read the Introduction section that will acquaint you with Foster and the general idea of the book. Then, for your specific assigned section, write a 1-2 page typed summary /reaction paper to the ideas Foster presents in that excerpt. You may wish to discuss what you found valuable, useful, or interesting about his approach to reading literature.

If your last name begins with:

A-B: Section 1: Eating

C-F: Section 2: Where Have I Seen Her? / Bible Influences

G-I: Section 3: More Than Rain Or Snow / Violence

J-M: Section 4: Symbols / Christ Figures

N-R: Section 5: Baptism / Geography

S-Z: Section 6: Marked / Blind / Illness

FICTION:

***Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte**

Any non-abridged print edition is acceptable

Wuthering Heights is a tough novel but so worth it! It is written by Emily Bronte, Charlotte's sister. Charlotte, you may remember, wrote the perennial favorite, *Jane Eyre*. *Jane Eyre* is a fantastic novel with a true heroine that you can sympathize with and root for throughout her journey. *Wuthering Heights*, however, is a bit more complex in that it is more psychological and metaphysical. There are the iconic characters of Heathcliff and Catherine, but neither is wholly good nor noble, the way Jane Eyre is. Setting is important, as is the concept of duality. Let yourself get swept up in the landscape of the Yorkshire moors and enjoy!

Assignment:

Please read “Emily Bronte’s Life”, found on our Edmodo page, as an introduction to the novel. Also, it will help to consult the map and the genealogical table also found there.

Then, after reading the novel, read and summarize the critical essay on *Wuthering Heights* from Edward Mendelson’s work *The Things That Matter: What Seven Classics Novels Have to Say About the Stages of Life*. Please summarize the main points of the essay, using specifics to support, in 2-3 typed pages, using direct quotes when needed.

***Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley**

Any non-abridged print edition is acceptable

Frankenstein is a fantastic novel but also challenging. When reading, think about the themes of the danger of playing God, mother/child relationships, parental abandonment, and the existential idea that you become how you are treated. Also note the Biblical and mythological allusions. Enjoy! (and remember... Frankenstein is the CREATOR, not the creature! Are you freaking out right now??)

Assignment:

For this assignment, please read and summarize the critical essay on *Frankenstein* from Edward Mendelson’s work *The Things That Matter: What Seven Classics Novels Have to Say About the Stages of Life*. Please summarize the main points of the essay, using specifics to support, in 2-3 typed pages, using direct quotes when needed.

***A Streetcar Named Desire* ~ Tennessee Williams**

Any print edition is acceptable

A Streetcar Named Desire is an amazing drama of dependency, pain, and the search for a savior. It also has a lot to say about the rise of the urban environment mid-20th century and the decline of the Southern antebellum plantation society. Tennessee Williams weaves symbolism throughout the play and gives us some of the most memorable and iconic characters in American literature, Blanche DuBois and her brother-in-law, Stanley Kowalski. You’ll love it!

Assignment:

For this assignment, you are asked to read a critical article taken from Harold Bloom’s *Streetcar Named Desire: Modern Critical Interpretations*: “The Cards Indicate a Voyage on *A Streetcar Named Desire*” by Leonard Quirino. This is a challenging piece of criticism. Don’t worry if you don’t understand every point being made or if you don’t know the allusions the author makes to other works/critics. Please answer the 14 guided reading questions found on the website. You will be graded holistically, on the validity of your answers, your support, and your writing.

The four (4) assignments above must be submitted as hard copies in class AND submitted to Turnitin.com. The class number and password for Turnitin will be given to you on the first day of class. The work is due on the second day of classes (which I believe will be Wednesday, September 10th, as we will most likely be meeting during Block 1).

10 points will be deducted per assignment for each day late. These assignments will constitute your first quiz grades for this course.

If there are any questions or problems, please email me. I will check my PHS email account periodically throughout the summer.

Wuthering Heights, *Frankenstein*, and *A Streetcar Named Desire* are extraordinary works of literature. They are each complex and profound in their own ways. At times, you may find them challenging, but they are worth the effort! Dive into their pages and enjoy!