

# A.P. ENGLISH LIT SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Ms. Christine Forlini  
cforlini@prestonhs.org

## Welcome to Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition!

All documents will be found on the Google Class site for AP Lit Summer Reading  
Students will be emailed the invitation to join the class.

### ***Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte**

Any non-abridged 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:**

In order to get an idea of the all-important setting, including the moors / moorland, please view the following short video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vtXSVoSKG9k>

Then, after reading the novel, read 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*. This essay discusses *Wuthering Heights* as a novel about childhood.

There are 10 sections in the essay. Please read and summarize each section in 2-5 sentences. You can use direct quotes as needed.

You will upload your work to Turnitin.com during the first week of school and it will count as a quiz grade. You do not need a hard copy.

1. Intro: pp. 47-48
2. Romantic Childhood: pp. 48-51
3. Two Bodies, One Self: pp. 52-55
4. What Cannot Be Spoken: pp. 55-57
5. Concealed from the Reader: pp. 57-60
6. The Force That Through the Green Fuse Drives the Flower: pp. 60-66
7. Distant Consolations: pp. 66-69
8. What Narrative Knows and History Doesn't: 69-74
9. Remembering to Breathe: pp. 74-76
10. The Fetish and the Idea: pp. 76-78

### ***Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley**

Any non-abridged 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!)

**Assignment:**

After reading the novel, read 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*. This essay discusses *Frankenstein* as a novel about birth. There are 12 sections in the essay. Please read and summarize each section in 2-5 sentences. You can use direct quotes as needed.

You will upload your work to Turnitin.com during the first week of school and it will count as a quiz grade. You do not need a hard copy.

1. Intro: pp. 3-4
2. Choosing Beauty: pp. 4-6
3. Everything Has a Beginning: pp. 7-9
4. Parents: Maternal and Otherwise: pp. 9-14
5. Original Virtue: pp. 14-19
6. Happiness and Vehemence: pp. 19-21
7. The Bonds of Love: pp. 21-23
8. The Fatal Wedding Night: pp. 23-27
9. Power and Love, Politics and Nature: pp. 27-33
10. Knowledge and Power, Women and Men: pp. 33-41
11. The Self and Its Double: pp. 41-44
12. Murderous Machinations: pp. 44-46

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

Any 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. You will be graded holistically, on the validity of your answers, your support, and your writing. You can use direct quotes as needed.

You will upload your work to Turnitin.com during the first week of school and it will count as a quiz grade. You do not need a hard copy.

The three (3) assignments above must be submitted to Turnitin.com. The class number and password for Turnitin will be given to you on the first day of class. The work will be due on the second full day of classes.

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!