

AP English 12
Summer Reading Assignment
2008-2009

Assigned Reading

***How to Read Literature like a Professor*, by Thomas C. Foster (ISBN: 006000942X).**

Students may purchase a copy of this book at a discounted rate from the bookstore. Skip chapter 3. As you read, underline or highlight concepts that you think are important.

***Frankenstein*, by Mary Shelley, Ed. Johanna M. Smith (ISBN: 031219126X).**

You must purchase this version of *Frankenstein*. It is available, with a student discount, at the HGBC bookstore.

Directions

1. **First**, read *How to Read Literature like a Professor (HTRLLAP)*. Underline and make marginal notes. You will need to know, understand and be able to apply these concepts throughout the year. You will find helpful notes in outline form at:

www.homepage.mac.com/mseffie/assignments/professor/ProfessorNotes.doc

These notes may help you to understand and review the material. However, remember that this is only an outline of key concepts. You will be required to know more detailed information from the book on your summer reading exam.

2. **Second**, Read *Frankenstein*. Read pages 3-189 and pages 262-274, 296-305, 368-380, and 396-409. The following websites links may be of help to you as you read and analyze the novel:

<http://wordsworth2.net/literary/frankensteintotes.htm>

<http://www.english.upenn.edu/Projects/knarf/contents.html>

3. As you read,
 - a. Mark concepts related to *HTRLLAP*.
 - b. **Discuss and analyze connections between *Frankenstein* and *HTRLLAP* on the online forum.**
4. **Finally**, study for a **test** on both *HTRLLAP* and *Frankenstein* on the first day of school. The test will include multiple-choice, true/false and short answer questions on the introductory material to *Frankenstein* (pgs 3-27) and the novel itself. These questions will be specific and will require that you have read the book (not simply book notes) and retained the information. You will need to know specific details from the introductory material as well as the book. It would be wise to thoroughly annotate and study the introductory notes. You will have questions on the types of literary criticisms and how they were applied to *Frankenstein* in the critical material that you were assigned to read at the back of the book. Annotate for the basic tenants of each criticism and the way in which it has been used to analyze *Frankenstein*. You are only responsible for the pages that you have been assigned to read! In addition, you will have questions on each chapter

of *HTRLLAP* and the questions will be specific enough that the outline referenced above will not give you enough information to answer them. It would be wise to use the outline as a framework for your own, more extensive notes on each chapter.

Online Forum

Our discussion will be hosted by www.nicenet.org. You may join the forum using this class key: 9234900A6Z . Please select a user name that includes your first and last name and, if that is not available, any numbers you would like to use. For example: rebekahdigavero or rebekahdigavero1. If you have any difficulty joining the forum, please email me at rebekahd@hgbc.org immediately.

You must complete all of your comments by the first day of school. However, I strongly recommend that you begin posting early. Consider the following advantages:

1. You will be able to do better analysis if you take the time to process and think through the material over a few weeks instead of a few days or hours. Doing all of the work at the last minute will probably impact the quality of your work.
2. **If you post prior to August 1st, I will respond to your posts, giving you feedback and allowing you to correct any mistakes that you made, so that you can bring up your grade. I will not respond to comments made after August 1st.**
3. You cannot repeat comments. For example, if another student has identified and analyzed an example of communion in the novel, you will not be able to write about the same example. Therefore, the earlier you post, the more options you will have.

The lists of threads that you must post on and directions are included below. You will also find the same directions posted as the first message of each thread.

Acceptable posts will include correct spelling and avoid abbreviations and slang typically used in text messages and IMs. There is no spell check function, so you may want to type your comment on Word, proofread it and then copy and paste it onto the forum.

Comments should be *complete* and *in depth*. Minimum length: 200 Words.

You may not duplicate a comment. You may not duplicate someone else's comment. Read what has already been posted on the thread, and do not use an example that has already been used.

Note: If you include unacceptable language or content in your posts, your user account will be deleted and you will receive a zero for this assignment.

If you have any questions or problems, feel free to email me at rebekahd@hgbc.org.

Post once on **all** of these threads:

Chapter 1 -- Every Trip Is a Quest (Except When It's Not)

Analyze one of the quests in this novel using insights from HTRLLAP. You may make an original comment, or respond to someone else's comment. However, do not repeat another comment. You must say something original. In your post, be sure to include specific quotes from the text, with page numbers, to support your conclusions.

Chapter 5 --Now, Where Have I Seen Her Before? and Interlude: One Story

Identify and discuss archetypal characters, objects and situations that appear in *Frankenstein*. You can find lists of archetypes online. You can find an excellent handout at www.dothgrin.net/archetypes.doc. *Do not repeat analysis from other posts.* In your post, be sure to include specific quotes from the text, with page numbers, to support your conclusions.

Chapters 6-9—Allusions

Research and analyze one of the literary allusions that appear in the novel. Among others, there are allusions in the novel to “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner,” “Prometheus” and “Paradise Lost.” (Note: Most of the allusions that appear to be Biblical are actually from “Paradise Lost.”) In your post, explain the original work, how it is referenced in *Frankenstein* and how your understanding of the allusion deepens your appreciation or understanding of the work. Do not repeat an analysis of the same reference in *Frankenstein*. You may, however, discuss a separate reference to the same work if it is referenced multiple times and your analysis of the new reference adds something new to the conversation. In your post, be sure to include specific quotes from the text, with page numbers, to support your conclusions. Use MLA format to cite your sources.

Chapter 10 -- It's More Than Just Rain or Snow

Discuss the importance of rain or snow in a specific passage from this novel. *Do not use a scene that has already been discussed on this thread unless you offer a significantly different interpretation.* In your post, be sure to include specific quotes from the text, with page numbers, to support your conclusions.

Interlude -- Does He Mean That

Explain whether or not you believe that Mary Shelley “knew that she was doing that.” In your post, be sure to include specific quotes from the text, with page numbers, to support your conclusions. *Do not repeat a comment already made on this thread. However, you may respond to and/or extend another student's comment.*

Chapter 11 --...More Than It's Gonna Hurt You: Concerning Violence

Identify an example of violence in the novel. Analyze it according to Foster's comments on the different types of violence and the effect of each. *Do not use an example of violence already discussed on this thread unless you offer a significantly different interpretation.* In your post, be sure to include specific quotes from the text, with page numbers, to support your conclusions.

Chapter 19 -- Geography Matters...

Choose an aspect of the novel that Foster would classify under "geography." Explain the aspect and analyze its significance or effect. *Do not use an example that has already been discussed on this thread.* In your post, be sure to include specific quotes from the text, with page numbers, to support your conclusions.

Chapter 20 -- ...So Does Season

Discuss a particular event that occurs in the novel and the season in which it occurs. Analyze its significance. *Do not use an event that has already been discussed on this thread, unless you are offering an alternate interpretation.* In your post, be sure to include specific quotes from the text, with page numbers, to support your conclusions.

Chapter 22 -- He's Blind for a Reason, You Know

Discuss the use of blindness in the novel. *Do not repeat a comment already made on this thread. However, you may respond to and/or extend another student's comment.* In your post, be sure to include specific quotes from the text, with page numbers, to support your conclusions.

Chapter 23 -- It's Never Just Heart Disease...

Chapter 24 -- ...And Rarely Just Illness

Choose a specific illness suffered by a character in *Frankenstein*. Discuss the significance of the illness as related to plot, characterization or theme. *Do not use an example that has already been discussed on this thread.* In your post, be sure to include specific quotes from the text, with page numbers, to support your conclusions.

Chapter 26 -- Is He Serious? And Other Ironies

Discuss an example of irony from the novel. *Do not use an example that has already been discussed on this thread.* In your post, be sure to include specific quotes from the text, with page numbers, to support your conclusions.

Envoi

Write a response to your reading of this book. What did you find the most interesting? Has it changed the way that you view movies and literature? How?

Post on **three** of these threads:

Chapter 2 – Nice to Eat with You: Acts of Communion

Using the criteria discussed in this chapter, discuss the use of communion in the novel. *Do not repeat a comment already made on this thread. However, you may respond to and/or extend another student's comment.* In your post, be sure to include specific quotes from the text, with page numbers, to support your conclusions.

Chapter 12 -- Is That a Symbol?

Using the criteria discussed in this chapter, identify a symbol used in the novel. Explain how the symbol is used and what it represents. *Do not use a symbol that has already been discussed on this thread unless you are offering comments that are original.* In your post, be sure to include specific quotes from the text, with page numbers, to support your conclusions.

Chapter 13 -- It's All Political

Assume that Foster is right and "it is all political." Use his criteria to show that the novel is primarily political. *Do not repeat a comment already made on this thread. However, you may respond to and/or extend another student's comment.* Cite any research you use in the correct MLA format. In your post, be sure to include specific quotes from the text, with page numbers, to support your conclusions.

Chapter 14 -- Yes, She's a Christ Figure, Too

Apply the criteria on page 119 to a character in the novel. *Do not repeat a comment already made on this thread. However, you may respond to and/or extend another student's comment.* In your post, be sure to include specific quotes from the text, with page numbers, to support your conclusions.

Chapter 18 -- If She Comes Up, It's Baptism

Identify a "baptism scene" in the novel. Explain how the character was 1. Prepared for life change, 2. How the baptism occurred, and 3. How the character was changed afterwards. *Do not repeat a comment already made on this thread. However, you may respond to and/or extend another student's comment.* In your post, be sure to include specific quotes from the text, with page numbers, to support your conclusions.

Chapter 21 -- Marked for Greatness

Explain how a character in the novel was "marked for greatness (significance)." *Do not repeat a comment already made on this thread. However, you may respond to and/or extend another student's comment.* In your post, be sure to include specific quotes from the text, with page numbers, to support your conclusions.

Post on **three** of these threads.

Psychoanalytic Criticism

Apply this critical perspective to the novel. Do not simply repeat the analysis included in the book. Take an idea or concept that is introduced and the apply it to the novel. Include specific quotes from *Frankenstein*, with page numbers, to support your conclusions. *Do not repeat a comment already made on this thread. However, you may respond to and/or extend another student's comment.*

Feminist Criticism

Apply this critical perspective to the novel. Do not simply repeat the analysis included in the book. Take an idea or concept that is introduced and the apply it to the novel. Include specific quotes from *Frankenstein*, with page numbers, to support your conclusions. *Do not repeat a comment already made on this thread. However, you may respond to and/or extend another student's comment.*

Marxist Criticism

Apply this critical perspective to the novel. Do not simply repeat the analysis included in the book. Take an idea or concept that is introduced and the apply it to the novel. Include specific quotes from *Frankenstein*, with page numbers, to support your conclusions. *Do not repeat a comment already made on this thread. However, you may respond to and/or extend another student's comment.*

Cultural Criticism

Apply this critical perspective to the novel. Do not simply repeat the analysis included in the book. Take an idea or concept that is introduced and the apply it to the novel. Include specific quotes from *Frankenstein*, with page numbers, to support your conclusions. *Do not repeat a comment already made on this thread. However, you may respond to and/or extend another student's comment.*