

Hesperia High School AP English Literature and Composition®

2011 Summer Reading Agreement

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THE ATTACHED SHEET TO MR. ROUSSEAU-SMITH IN S-16 NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2011.

[If you are a **transfer AP student** to HHS during the summer, submit this sheet to Mr. Rousseau-Smith's mailbox as soon as possible, but no later than the first day of school.]

Course Description:

AP English Literature and Composition offers students a year of intense training in reading and writing that not only prepares them for the AP Literature and Composition examination, but also for successful university study and lifelong learning. The class focuses on rhetorical analysis of fiction, poetry, philosophical documents, and literary criticism from British literature as well as significant literature from other cultures. Students learn to identify an author's purpose and strategies by examining the ways people think and use language. Students read and analyze models of good writing and write compositions of various lengths and complexity, participating in peer response and rigorous revision.

Purpose:

The purpose of the class is to practice living and thinking through the medium of reading, writing, as well as other communicative mediums in accord with all California education standards for twelfth grade as well as to prepare you for the AP English Literature and Composition Examination.

Method:

Much of the course will be a discussion format. It is imperative that you come to class prepared to make contributions. The class needs you to be here on a daily basis in order for it to function optimally. We will work both independently as well as in groups and I value the impact of every student. We will also devote regular time to test preparation.

Course Work:

Staying up with readings and assignments is the key to success in this class. Participation in class discussions is a large portion of your grade. There will also be opportunities for you to share in the form of written papers, projects, and class presentations.

Summer Assignment:

This year's summer assignment will be to read and take notes on the themes, literary devices, and rhetorical strategies present in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. This does not mean to Google the information—rather read and discover these elements yourself. You can purchase a copy (**strongly recommended**), check one out from the textbook office, public library, or read it in an e-text version. I will be referencing Prestwick House's edition, which can be ordered on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, or any other comparable bookstore. The ISBN number is 978-1580495943. Complete the reading at your own pace over the summer and come to class prepared to take a test based on the reading; in addition, be ready to engage in a full discussion about the book. You might be tempted, as there is no written proof of your reading of the book, to not complete this summer assignment. I would. *Seriously.*

***Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley**

Mary Shelley was born into a socially conscious, literary family and married one of the most significant poets of the era. This novel was published anonymously in 1818, and has been labeled as gothic, horror, science fiction, and romantic literature. When Shelley finally attached her name to the critically acclaimed novel in 1831, she echoed the curiosity of her readers with, "How I, then a young girl, came to think of, and to dilate upon, so very hideous an idea?"

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PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN *THIS SHEET* TO MR. ROUSSEAU-SMITH IN N-20 NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2011.

PLEASE READ AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE ASSIGNMENTS CAREFULLY, AS THEY CONSTITUTE THE BASIS OF SEVERAL MORE ASSIGNMENTS IN THE FALL SEMESTER.

Failure to complete the summer reading will jeopardize the student's placement in the AP class. Students may be dropped from the class.

After reading through this packet, if you have any questions, discuss them with your current English teacher, or see Mr. Rousseau-Smith in N-20.

STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

I have read this packet of summer reading assignments and understand the rigorous requirements for this AP class. I understand that I will be enrolled in a challenging, college-level class that will require consistent study, eager participation, and maturity and ethics commensurate with a college student. I understand that CST/SAT-9 reading comprehension scores below the 80th percentile indicate possible struggles to keep up in this AP course. I understand that I must secure a copy of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and complete a careful reading prior to August 8, 2011. I also plan to take the AP English Literature and Composition exam in the spring of 2012 as a culminating measure of my English and language arts abilities.

Student Signature

Date

Printed Student Name

PARENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

I have read this packet with my son/daughter and understand the requirements for the AP class. I understand the summer reading requirements and the necessity of acquiring texts in a timely manner, both now and throughout the year. I understand that my student needs to be an avid reader, and I have examined his or her CST/SAT-9 reading scores to estimate the chances of her or his success in this class. Additionally, I understand that the AP test my son/daughter will take in the spring will cost approximately \$85.00, not counting possible financial assistance.

Parent Signature

Date

Printed Parent Name