



AP English Literature and Composition Summer Reading

The College Board web site states, “[t]he AP English Literature and Composition course is designed to engage students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature.” We will carefully read and analyze this work of recognized literary merit to begin your literary exploration. If you purchase your book, please consider our local bookseller, Books for Less, because they offer a discount.

All students will read

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

And

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

Working with the poem:

1. As you read, make note of any passages that you find to be powerful, provocative, dramatic, surprising, or even disturbing. (A passage consists of more than three lines.) The passages should focus on themes, setting, conflict, narrative style, characterization, or outstanding features of style (allusion, diction, dialect, figurative language, irony, mood, point of view, syntax, tone). See the handout on annotating literary texts to help you select and organize the passages.
2. Make note of one particular passage as the “Quotation of the Poem”—that one passage or quotation that captures the essence of the poem.

Working with the novel:

1. As you read, mark passages that you find to be powerful, provocative, dramatic, surprising, or even disturbing. (A passage consists of more than three sentences or three lines.) The passages should focus on themes, setting, conflict, narrative style, characterization, or outstanding features of style (allusion, diction, dialect, figurative language, irony, mood, point of view, syntax, tone). See the handout on annotating literary texts to help you select and organize the passages.
2. Mark one particular passage as the “Quotation of the Book”—that one passage or quotation that captures the essence of the novel.

Assessment:

You should read carefully with a focus on analyzing those elements that the authors use to craft the literature. You will have greater success if you read the selections at least twice—once for overall impressions and a second time for greater depth. We will engage in several rich and challenging assignments associated with the poem and novel at the start of the school year. You should be prepared to discuss and write about your interpretations of both the poem and the novel.