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Summer Reading: AP English Lit. 12

Reading High School

Teacher: Scott Thamann

Complete these exercises after reading each novel. All assignments will be due on the first day of class. Late work will not be accepted. If you have any questions, I will check my e-mail throughout the summer. You can reach me at sthamann@readingschool.org.

1. *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

Answer each of the following questions with an EXTENDED response. All responses must be typed.

1. Frankenstein often offers a subtitle of “The Modern Prometheus”. Explain why Shelley would use this subtitle by comparing Frankenstein to Prometheus.
2. Examine the relationship between Victor and the monster. Compare their relationship to a modern day, real-life relationship.
3. Beyond the relationship mentioned in #2, explain one other theme from the novel. How does Shelley develop this theme? What is her comment to society through this theme? **We cannot have a “theme” without the author’s commentary.**

2. *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Respond to the following prompts with an extended response. All responses must be typed.

1. Analyze the character of Hester. Is she a sympathetic character? Is she a heroine? Or is she a contemptible character? Explain your analysis and provide examples from the text.
2. Analyze the character of Mr. Dimmesdale. Is he a sympathetic character? Is he a hero? Or is he a contemptible character? Explain your analysis and provide examples from the text.
3. Analyze the character of Pearl. She is not a major character, but explore what role she plays within the novel. What purpose does she serve? Explain your analysis and provide examples from the text.

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Write an extended response to the following Discussion Topics. Consider both novels within each response. All answers must be typed and double-spaced.

Discussion Topics:

Form:

As you read, please note the style and form that each author uses to tell his/her story. Each is unique in their form. What are the authors hoping to accomplish with their chosen forms? Why haven't they simply used a linear development?

Perspective:

From which perspective are the stories told? First person? Third person? Omniscient? Limited? Would the novel be better with a different perspective? Why / why not?

Theme:

Theme is an idea that the author develops throughout a novel. Theme is intended to either create a discussion of a controversial topic, OR it serves as a commentary from the author. Each novel can have multiple themes. Identifying and analyzing authors' theme will be a serious focus of this class.

Identify at least two themes within each novel. Can you compare themes from one novel to the other?

Purpose:

Why has the author written this piece? What was he/she hoping to accomplish? How did the author attempt to fulfill that purpose? Was she successful? Why / why not?

Vocabulary:

Please define and study the attached vocabulary list. You are expected to incorporate these terms in your written responses and discussions. Also, you should expect a quiz over them.

Define the following Literary Terms, and know them on the first day of school.
I expect you to know and apply these terms in your writing and assessments throughout the year.

Alliteration

Metaphor

Allusion

motif

Allegory

Narrative

Antagonist

oxymoron

Climax

Parable

conflict

Paradox

Connotation

Personification

Denotation

Point of view

Dialogue

portrayal

Figurative language

Protagonist

Flashback

Setting

Genre

Simile

Hyperbole

Symbolism

Imagery

theme

Irony

tone