

Senior AP English Summer Reading

Welcome to AP Literature and Composition. I look forward to getting to know you and working to create a great class together.

Please acquire and read both of the following works of literature this summer (it is crucial that you get the correct versions as indicated by ISBN#s below):

Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy, trans. Constance Garnett (ISBN 9781593080273)

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley (ISBN 9781593080051)

One key way to tell whether or not one is an advanced reader is not in the ability to answer questions but rather in the ability to ask oneself the appropriate questions and use an interpretation of the text to inform the answers. For the above texts, you will receive data packets derived from AP material which you will need to fill out to be turned in on the first day of school. These data packets will help you organize the important details of the text while you read. The packets contain items dealing with factual issues, textual evidence, and interpretation. All three of these elements will be crucial to achieve the *insight* necessary to write the first essay of our class (which we will write within a couple weeks after returning to school). These packets will be graded based on completeness, accuracy, and insight. As such, you should word process your responses to ensure you will have enough space (it should come to about 6-7 single spaced pages for *Anna Karenina*, a bit less for *Frankenstein*).

Do not feel confined to the data packets, though. They are a tool for you to use. The goal is insight for use on writing assignments. Use the text and the data packets as a means by which to challenge yourself to come up with the most insightful *questions*. Your questions should go to the heart of why the authors made the choices they did and what these works of literature are meant to teach us about society, about history, and about ourselves. You may record your questions in a separate document for you to hold onto and use when the time comes for our first essay. Then, once you have developed questions, you can use the information collected on the data packets as evidence to help you respond to those questions. An informed response to an insightful question is the stuff from which a good thesis is made.

Keep in mind that I will be looking for insightful commentary in class from each of you, so if your instinct is to use online resources in lieu of reading the text, this is probably not the class for you.

I can be reached over the summer at dbrodsky@medway.k12.ma.us. Please drop me an e-mail early in the summer to introduce yourself and say hello so that I have your e-mail address in case I have any updates for you over the summer. It is important that you do this early in the summer.

Take my advice: it's best to begin reading early and go at your own pace rather than leaving it until the last few weeks and having it hang over your head all summer.

Enjoy, and have a terrific summer,

Mr. Brodsky