

English 3: AP Literature and Composition Summer Reading 2026

Welcome to English 3: AP Literature and Composition!

This is a rigorous English course, and through your work in English Honors 1 and 2, you have proven thus far that you are up for the challenge. I promise that you will work, but you will also engage in many assignments that will look at literature from different perspectives.

The reading and writing is frequent and the course requires independent thinking. Throughout the year, we will function as a community of learners. If you are committed to the work as well as to listening and learning from each other, this class will ultimately become one in which we are all teachers and students. Each member of the class will have a voice. We will learn from each other and share our thoughts, ideas and observations. The class will focus on class discussions, some lectures, group and individual presentations, literary analysis, and writing, vocabulary, and analytical skills.

You must read the following books this summer:

1) *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte

2) *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

Step 1 - **Read** the assigned books.

Step 2 - **Write** in response to the directions found below (in MLA format). Each essay must be a minimum of 500 words, and must cite the source material with in-text citations.

Do not merely summarize the plot. In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Provide evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

Step 3 - Summer reading assignments must also be submitted to turnitin.com. The code for turnitin.com will be available on our Google Classroom in early August.

Submit your summer reading assignments to **Google Classroom AND to turnitin.com**.

Step 4 - Once school begins, you will take a test on the two books.

Due Monday, August 3rd: *Jane Eyre* (2024 AP Lit. & Comp. Free Response Question)

Many works of literature feature a character who may be reluctant to make a decision, unable to make a decision, or is resistant to doing so. This indecision can have broader implications for that character or other characters. Such implications may include changes to a character's relationships, social and/or financial stability, well-being, or any other aspects of the character's existence. Choose a work of fiction (*Jane Eyre*) in which a character delays or avoids making a decision.

Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how the impact of this indecision contributes to an interpretation of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

NOT DUE. However, take notes in preparation for a timed in-class essay in September: *Frankenstein*, 1831 edition (2025 AP Lit. & Comp. Free Response Question)

In many works of literature, characters may be significantly affected by memories of the past. A character may be inspired by the past, haunted by the past, unable to let go of the past, or motivated by the past to craft a better future. Choose a work of fiction (*Frankenstein*) in which a character is significantly affected by a memory.

Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how the impact of the memory on the character contributes to an interpretation of the work as a whole.

If you have any questions, please email me at: vanessa.grupa@lodi.k12.nj.us

To view quality AP writing, look at essays from 2020 to the present. As of 2020, a 6 is the best score an essay can receive.

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-english-literature-and-composition/exam/past-exam-questions?course=ap-english-literature-and-composition>

If your work is not turned in on time and/or if your work is found to be plagiarized, which may include traces of ChatGPT or any AI writing model, you will be removed from the AP class.