

**CONNETQUOT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ISLIP**  
**780 Ocean Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716-3629**  
**ADVANCED PLACEMENT LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION**  
**SUMMER READING 2024**  
**Ms. Faeger**

Advanced Placement students across Long Island and the nation are required to complete summer reading assignments to foster success and encourage reading for pleasure as well as in-depth analysis. The Connetquot English Department requires students entering AP Literature and Composition to read a novel and to complete the written assignment described in this packet.

The major work you will read is Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Shelley's novel is a study of the Human Condition in light of man's hubristic quest to bring an end to human mortality. Our story is a framed narrative that opens with Robert Walton, who shortly thereafter encounters Victor Frankenstein. It is this encounter that allows for the story to unfold. Victor is a man driven by his tragic flaw. He constructs a creature, brings him to life, and then abandons him. Victor's hubristic nature is what drives him to break the laws of nature and ironically the laws of nature are the catalyst for Victor's downfall.

Reader Response Questions for Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*: Read the novel closely. Use post-it notes to annotate passages that you find striking, shocking, interesting or enjoyable because of the diction and language used by the author. Be prepared to discuss these selections in class.. Responses to the questions are to be typed, double spaced, and submitted on Google Classroom **Tuesday, September 3, 2024 no later than 11:59 pm.**

This novel will be discussed in great depth as the first major piece of literature for the school year. Summer assignment scores will be based on insight, clarity of expression, and development of responses. Supply textual support without plot summary; use direct quotes and paraphrased text that supports your response rather than a retelling of the plot. Summer Assignments not submitted on the due date will receive a reduced score. Students who plagiarize their work will receive a zero (0). Plagiarism includes taking material from the internet and presenting it as your own as well as sharing work between students. These are independent assignments.

**CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT: You need to KNOW these forms of characterization.**

- Round Characters: characters that are fully developed and multi-dimensional.
- Flat Characters: characters that are based solely on one trait or characteristic.
- Dynamic Characters: characters that develop through the course of the story.
- Static Characters: characters that do NOT develop through the course of the story.
- Foil: a character who is the opposite of another character used to shed light upon the character of the latter.
- Catalyst: a character (or event) that starts a chain of events. A catalyst is the first domino to fall.

**Reader Response Questions for Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Please type (double-spaced, Times New Roman, font size 12). Consider the events that support your response and deepen your analysis by discussing the significance of these events and WHY they give greater meaning to the work as a whole. (Meaning=THEME)**

**WORD COUNT: NO MORE THAN 650 WORDS TOTAL EIGHT (8) QUESTIONS.**

**Please insert your WORD COUNT at the top of the page. Be direct. Develop your analysis and edit your work carefully.**

### **Volume I (Walton's Letters – Chap 8)**

1. The novel opens with a series of letters in which the narrator of the novel is writing his thoughts and plans to his sister. Where is the narrator going? Why has he chosen to make this voyage? Of what does the narrator dream? What is his goal? How do these details CHARACTERIZE him?
2. Victor's circle of close relationships include family, friends and scientists. First do a bit of character analysis of Victor and then discuss the following relationships and how each relationship affects Victor: Elizabeth; Henry Clerval; and Cornelius Agrippa
3. What briefly lifts Victor's spirit on his journey home? Why is this significant? When he returns home, discuss the events that cause Victor's emotional distress. Why are these events significant to understanding his character?

### **Volume II (Chaps 9-17)**

4. What are Victor's feelings as his creature approaches him. What is the first thing he says to his creature? How does the creature respond to Victor? Consider the creature's CHARACTERIZATION
5. What biblical character does the creature compare himself to? What character does he think he ought to be? How does this reflect our theme of identity and creator?
6. What happens when the creature introduces himself to the cottagers? What evidence is there that the creature is still essentially good despite this momentous disappointment? What happens that makes the creature finally despair?

### **Volume III (Chaps 18-24)**

7. How has the murder of a close friend altered Victor? What is the direct impact of Victor emotionally and personally? Why is this murder an opportunity for Victor to share information with others?
8. Why does Victor decide to marry Elizabeth immediately? What evidence is there to suggest what the creature really means by his threat to be with Frankenstein on his wedding night?