

June 6, 2017

Dear AP Literature Student,

Welcome to the class of 2016-2017. You have signed up for a challenging and exciting year. During this year, we will read, discuss and write about a wide variety of literature including *Frankenstein*, *Hamlet*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *A Doll's House*, and *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*. While reading these works (and a variety of poems, short stories, and plays), you will learn how to read and write critically about literature. You will be working towards two goals: a) taking and performing well on the AP exam and b) preparing yourself for college-level reading and writing.

The first step to achieving these goals is to learn how to read a text closely and critically. Your first assignment for this course (Don't groan!!!) is to select and read a novel during the summer. We have switched from the reading of *Frankenstein* for two reasons: 1) The College Board has been advocating that students read contemporary as well as traditional novels. And 2) Students have enjoyed and found so much to discuss in *Frankenstein*, we decided to make it part of the regular curriculum. So this year, you get to choose which novel to read. You do need to select a novel with literary value so we have attached a list of recommended selections. Don't be afraid to read more off of the list since the more you read the better off you will be on the AP exam. The dates next to the novel is how many times it has shown up on the AP exam. Please look up reviews and talk with parents about your novel choice. The ones that are bolded are the ones we will do as a class this year so don't read those. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at joyce.donais@ksd.org.

The first step in this assignment is to obtain a copy of a novel. Be careful in your selection of books. We suggest that you look up reviews and summaries of several novels on line before selecting one. Make sure that you purchase your own copy because you will want to highlight key passages and write notes in the columns. After you obtain a copy, begin reading immediately. If you are used to action-packed thrillers, you might find your novel a little difficult to get into. These novels-especially those with literary value-often depend on understatement and sophisticated use of language to develop themes. Read slowly and carefully, and don't worry if you don't understand every sentence or symbol-as long as you understand the gist of the story, you will be fine. If you have questions, Mrs. Donais at djdonais@frontier.com or joyce.donais@ksd.org.

As you read the novel, takes notes on vocabulary, themes, motifs, characterization and narrative structure. This novel will be due on the first day of school, so be ready to discuss your novel in length on the first day. Have a great summer!

Mrs. Donais