

Dear AP Literature and Composition Student,

We are delighted that you have made the brave decision to enroll in AP Literature and Composition for next year. Though difficult, we believe that it can be one of the most rewarding courses of study in our discipline. We will study the craft of the authors and storytellers across a variety of cultures and time periods of humankind. Our goal is to facilitate an experience in which you thrive in the practice of academic discourse about literature. We also hope to engineer a few epiphanies.

Summer reading assignments are difficult to complete, but it is really important that we do them. As instructors, we build our school year under the assumption that you have *actually* read the novels assigned. If you make the choice to read the text in a fake way (you know of the many ways we “read” something for our classes), you will render yourself fake, and our classes will be the weaker for it. Actual, honest reading of the texts will validate your commitment to yourself as a scholar of literature and composition. Once you’ve read a novel, the entire experience stays with you forever. It’s something that can never be taken away from you.

The reading assignment for all students taking AP Literature and Composition is on the other side of this letter. The reading assignment is the exact same whether you have Reynaga or McCarthy.

**Read two stories:**

*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

**and**

*Loving Day* by Mat Johnson **or** *Go Tell it on the Mountain* by James Baldwin

While you read, please do the assignment on the back of this page. It is due when we begin school in the fall.

**Notes:**

- One of the novels we have chosen for you contains frankly adult content (*Loving Day*). It was not written in such a way as to shelter adolescents from the vicissitudes of sexuality and its consequences. If your personal or family values require you to abstain from this content, you should choose *Go Tell it on the Mountain* as your second choice.
- The other novel, *Frankenstein*, starts with a series of letters. Though it seems a bit dry at first, please know that there is important information in them and that the novel’s narrative pace accelerates as you read further.

We are looking forward to meeting and working with you in the fall.

Regards,

Ms. Reynaga

Mr. McCarthy

Reynaga/McCarthy

AP English Literature

2019/'20

## Summer Reading Assignment

**The readings:** *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

**And**

*Loving Day* by Mat Johnson **or** *Go Tell it on the Mountain* by James Baldwin

### The assignment:

**REVIEW THE WHOLE ASSIGNMENT BEFORE READING THE NOVELS. Do the following assignment for each of the two novels. This is a process assignment. Please hand-write your answers. All answers should be written in the book with actual annotations on the pages\*. You may write your entries as bullets rather than complete sentences. Please use pen in a readily readable color. You may use highlighters as well, but this is in addition to your annotations (notes in the margins).**

**\*If you aren't able to write in the pages of your book (or wherever you deem it necessary) you may write your annotations on binder paper. Be sure to include page numbers for reference.**

1. For the first chapter of each book: annotate your text with 3 questions that you would like answered somewhere later in the text. For *Frankenstein*, do this with the actual "Chapter I"

As you read the rest of the chapters:

2. Annotate at least ten more questions you have about the text. Indicate whether or not these questions eventually get answered in the text.
3. Annotate 10 concrete details that refer to and/or illustrate the setting. Briefly comment on what mood or meaning you get from this passage.\*\*
4. Annotate 10 places that contribute to characterization. Briefly comment on how the passage makes you feel about the character.\*\*
5. Annotate one passage that indicates the conflict. Indicate if this passage is in the exposition, rising action, climax, or resolution.
6. **First Line/Last Line.** After you have finished the novel, reread the first and last lines of the novel. Briefly explain the significance of the lines.

**\*\*make sure that you include abstract nouns (emotion/idea words) in your commentary**

Bring your assignment with you every day during the first two weeks of school. If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at the addresses below:

(Reynaga) [jlr\\_jfkhs@hotmail.com](mailto:jlr_jfkhs@hotmail.com) Or (McCarthy) [KC-McCarthy@scusd.edu](mailto:KC-McCarthy@scusd.edu)