

LAWTON CHILES HIGH SCHOOL
Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition
Summer Reading Assignment—2019

Welcome to Advanced Placement Literature and Composition. This course requires you to read, analyze, and discuss literature in depth and to write about literature in a manner that demonstrates knowledge and critical thinking abilities across various literary genres. The works listed below should be available at local libraries, but we encourage you to obtain a personal copy that will allow you to highlight and write in the works as you desire. **We will be using hard copies (not electronic copies) of the novels.**

A. LITERARY WORKS

Read BOTH of the novels listed below and complete the note-taking assignment. [Notes on these novels are to be handwritten and in your own words—no notes from other sources except where noted; 3-5 pgs. min. for each novel.] Due date for notes: the first day of class.

1. *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus* by Mary Shelley

❖ Notes should include:

- list of characters with descriptions
- plot summary (min: 150 words)
- definition of a frame narrative (provide source)/application of this device in the novel
- characteristics of Romanticism (source)
- characteristics of Gothic literature (source)
- themes (*in sentence form*) with direct quotations for support

2. *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad

❖ Notes should include:

- list of characters with descriptions
- plot summary (min: 150 words)
- themes (*in sentence form*) with direct quotations for support
- the history of the Congo from the 16th to the 21st century (minimum twelve facts)
- a brief analysis, not a summary, of a key scene with direct quotes for support

When you return to school in August, we will devote approximately six weeks to the discussion of these two works, including **in-class essays** written on both novels. You will be asked to reflect on the writers, their styles, the content of the novels, and the themes. This will not be a “test” requiring memorization of details. You will write analytical essays that demonstrate your deep understanding of the text as a whole.

B. STUDY GUIDE

Purchase your own copy of Barron’s *AP English Literature and Composition, 7th edition* (2017) (approx. \$17.00). Study and learn the literary terms in the glossary at the end of the book. [The AP study book will be used throughout the year and may be purchased at all area bookstores or at Amazon.com. If a newer edition is released over the summer, please purchase that one. **The CD edition is not necessary.**]