

DEAR 10TH GRADE ENGLISH SCHOLARS,

This is my friendly reminder to you that you have summer reading. Depending on when you read this, you either have a whole summer ahead of you or several weeks. You still have time; however, time is ticking. So, to help you along, here are a few comments:

1. *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley is your summer reading. Please buy the copy recommended on the school website; it will make class discussions more productive for you. Please purchase the Penguin Classics; Clothbound Classics edition of the book: [ISBN-13: 978-0141393391](#)
2. We will use this book extensively in the first three weeks of school and you will need to know the story. We will refer to it throughout the year.
3. This story has three different narrators and is kind of like an onion. The story starts with the writings of a ship captain, then goes to a narrative by Frankenstein, then a narrative from the monster, then Frankenstein, then finishes with the ship captain. Don't let it throw you off track.
4. There is plenty of action once you get into the meat of the story. Don't give up.
5. Watching any version of a Frankenstein movie will not properly prepare you ... Abbot and Costello Meet Frankenstein, Frankenweenie, Young Frankenstein, The Bride of Frankenstein, Igor, Edward Scissorhands, etc. etc. etc. Sorry, you just have to read it! In fact, many of the classic stories get the story all wrong.
6. Please read the assignment page to make sure you are tracking the right themes, annotating in your book, and completing the written assignment.

I look forward to seeing you all next school year.

Blessings, Mrs. Ryden

ASSIGNMENTS

ANNOTATIONS: You will be responsible for annotating in your book. What I am looking for are tabs for the themes mentioned below, as well as margin notes and highlighted text (please see the annotation document on the website).

THEMES:

- Community/Family • Sacrifice • Life/Creation • Revenge • Fate/Free Will

WRITING ASSIGNMENT:

DIALECTICAL JOURNAL INSTRUCTIONS The term “Dialectic” means “the art or practice of arriving at the truth by using conversation involving question and answer. Think of your dialectical journal as a series of conversations with the texts we read during this course. The process is meant to help you develop a better understanding of the texts we read.

Create a dialectical journal for *Frankenstein*.

-Journal entries should be entered on the dialectical journal Google Doc which is available [HERE](#). You may print out the Google doc and neatly hand write your answers in blue or black ink **OR** make a copy of the Google doc (File>Make a Copy) and type your answers.

-Each entry must have a passage from the novel and a response to each passage.

-The sections and number of entries are as follows:

Letters 1-4 (Walton's POV) – 1 entry

Chapter 1-10 (Victor's POV) – 2 entries

Chapter 11-16 (Creature's POV) – 2 entries

Chapter 17-24 (Victor / Walton's POV) – 2 entries

PROCEDURE: For each dialectical journal per section (7 total), please consider the following: As you read, choose passages that stand out to you and record them in the left hand column of a T-chart (ALWAYS include page numbers). Look for quotes that seem significant, powerful, and/or thought provoking.

- o Effective &/or creative use of stylistic or literary devices
- o Structural shifts or turns in the plot

- o A passage that makes you realize something you hadn't seen before
- o Examples of patterns: recurring images, symbols or motifs.
- o Passages that illustrate a particular character
- o Identify, discuss and track the development of a particular theme

In the right column, write your response to the text (ideas/insights, questions, reflections, and comments on each passage)

EXAMPLE:

| ENTRY | PASSAGE FROM TEXT WITH PAGE NUMBER | STUDENT COMMENT OR QUESTION |
|---|---|--|
| Letters 1-4 (Walton's POV) – 1 entry | "I greatly need a friend who would have sense enough not to despise me as romantic, and affection enough for me to endeavour to regulate my mind" (20). | It is interesting that he yearns so for a friend and a companion. I guess ultimately that is what we all yearn for: someone to understand us and relate to us with our own interests. Why, though, does he say "despise me as a romantic"? That is an interesting phrase. It is also curious to think about "affection" being someone who will regulate his mind. Is that the true nature of friendship? Someone to help you? Is that the same today or does he have an unrealistic understanding of friendship? |