

## AP English IV Summer Reading Assignment

**NOTE:** If you do not complete the full AP English Summer Reading Assignment and first day of class quiz at a proficient level (75 or above), your placement in the class will be reassessed to determine if you will be allowed to remain in the AP English class for the 2017-18 school year.

- **Texts**

*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte

*Mystery and Manners* by Flannery O'Connor (Pages 25-190)

- **Assignment for *Mystery and Manners***

As you read pages 25 - 190 in *Mystery and Manners*, compose (**this means in your own words**) three statements per chapter (there are 12 chapters) that summarize O'Connor's opinion(s) on the subject of each chapter. When complete, this document will consist of 36 statements or tenets that O'Connor held concerning literary fiction. Please be prepared to discuss these tenets in a class discussion.

- **Assignment for *Jane Eyre* – Three Journals**

- **400-500 words** each (Typed, double spaced Times New Roman)
- Journals may be written in an informal, brainstorming style and do not require parenthetical documentation. They are graded on content and the level of analysis presented.

Please bring a printed copy of your summer reading assignment to the first class meeting. (This will be the Monday or Tuesday after senior retreat.) The summer reading assignment will also be submitted online during the first day of class, so please bring your computer to class with your complete summer reading document. Please put the *Mystery and Manners* assignment and the three *Jane Eyre* Journals in ONE document for online submission purposes.

## Journal Topics

**Journals 1 - 3** –Respond to THREE of the following prompts (one for each journal entry) using *Jane Eyre* as your “work of literary merit.” –

**Prompt 1:** A recurring theme in literature is the classic war between passion and responsibility. For instance, a personal cause, a love, a desire for revenge, a determination to redress a wrong, or some other emotion or drive may conflict with moral duty. Choose a literary work in which a character confronts the demands of a private passion that conflicts with his or her responsibilities. In a well-written essay show clearly the nature of the conflict, its effects upon the character, and its significance to the work. (AP Literature and Composition Exam, 1980)

**Prompt 2:** Many plays and novels use contrasting places (for example, two countries, two cities or towns, two houses, or the land and the sea) to represent opposed forces or ideas that are central to the meaning of the work. Choose a novel or play that contrasts two such places. Write an essay explaining how the places differ, what each represents, and how their contrast contributes to the meaning of the work. (AP Literature and Composition Exam, 1991)

**Prompt 3:** In many works of literature, past events can affect, positively or negatively, the present actions, attitudes, or values of a character. Choose a work of literary merit in which a character must contend with some aspect of the past, either personal or societal. Then write an essay in which you show how the character’s relationship to the past contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole. (AP Literature and Composition Exam, 2007)

**Prompt 4:** Many works of literature not readily identified with the mystery or detective story genre nonetheless involve the investigation of a mystery. In these works, the solution to the mystery may be less important than the knowledge gained in the process of its investigation. Choose a work of literary merit in which one or more of the characters confront a mystery. Then write an essay in which you identify the mystery and explain how the investigation illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot. (AP Literature and Composition Exam, 2000)

**Prompt 6:** One of the strongest human drives seems to be a desire for power. Write an essay in which you discuss how a character in a work of literary merit struggles to free himself or herself from the power of others or seeks to gain power over others. Be sure to demonstrate in your essay how the author uses this power struggle to enhance the meaning of the work. (AP Literature and Composition Exam Form B, 2005)

**Prompt 7:** The most important themes in literature are sometimes developed in scenes in which a death or deaths take place. Choose a novel or play and write a well-organized essay in which you show how a specific death scene helps to illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary. (AP Literature and Composition Form B, 2004)

**Prompt 8:** In a literary work, a minor character, often known as a foil, possesses traits that emphasize, by contrast or comparison, the distinctive characteristics and qualities of the main character. For example, the ideas or behavior of the minor character might be used to highlight the weaknesses or strengths of the main character. Choose a work of literary merit in which a minor character serves as a foil to a main character. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the relation between the minor character and the major character illuminates the meaning of the work. (AP Literature and Composition Exam, 2008)

**If you have questions, please call, text, or email Mrs. Merryman at 214-460-5235 or [pmerryman@prestonwoodchristian.org](mailto:pmerryman@prestonwoodchristian.org).**