

May 2019

Dear Student:

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition is designed to provide you with the most helpful strategies to succeed on the AP exam next year as well as success in your undergraduate work in the following academic years. We will cover a full gamut of materials; therefore, you should be ready to dig your heels into several genres of literature throughout **the entire** school year. You will be expected to work extremely hard, so be prepared in August through the last weeks of school. By taking this course, you agree to engage in summer reading; the English Department recommends that you do so at a pace that allows you to enjoy the texts. Reading in June or July will not make your participation in class more difficult than reading in August; however, we do not recommend trying to read both texts in the last week of the summer before school begins. **Failure to do your summer reading is not an acceptable excuse for dropping the course. In addition to taking the AP Literature Exam in May, a required, 200-point practice exam will be taken by each student in early to mid-April. This will be completed outside of class.**

In order for us to successfully begin the course in August, we have established two summer readings for Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition. Texts that you will be given before the year ends are

- Play: *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare (ISBN-978-0-7434-7710-9-Folger)
- Novel: *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley (ISBN# 978-0-486-28211-2/0-468-28211-2 **The Dover Thrift Edition. (This is NOT the Thrift Study edition.)**)

To fulfill the summer reading requirement, please keep a close-reading response for each work read. This response must be typed (MLA formatted: 12-point, Times New Roman, 1.0" margins, double spaced, etc.—If you need help, reference the Purdue OWL at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>), and you should cite the assigned text as you read. **You will need a spiral notebook and/or binder as well.** Specific instructions for each piece are attached to this letter. However, please keep in mind that the responses are **due FRIDAY of our return**. The responses will be collected (both electronically and/or via hard copy), graded, and returned to you, so you can use them in our discussions and to study for exams. Therefore, the more thorough your notes, the more personally useful they will be.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to see us in **rooms A113 or A138** before summer break, and we will be glad to answer them for you. Once again, we are especially looking forward to meeting you, and we are anticipating an extremely successful year.

If you or a friend misplace your summer reading assignment, you can access all this information on the District 88 website. Go to [www.district88.net](http://www.district88.net) click on WBHS (top right), then ENGLISH (left menu), then click the file "12AP Summer Letter-2019-2020" at the bottom of the page.

Finally, we have attached 2019/2020 Willowbrook English Department Academic Honesty and Plagiarism Policy/Contract. As society becomes more reliant on technology, Willowbrook teachers have seen a notable increase in plagiarism, including students claiming material from online sources and/or claiming the work of past and present peers as their own original ideas. Because of this, we want to be sure each student understands the seriousness of this offense and request that you sign and date the policy and return it to us the first week of classes.

Sincerely,

Mr. Brett A. Blair  
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Mr. Brian P. Shanahan  
English Teacher  
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## Response Instructions: Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition

If you choose to take notes as you read, please start them in your notebook which we will use during the school year. The more organized you stay, the more accessibility you will have during the course to the key styles and themes of the authors and their works.

### I. *Macbeth*

*Macbeth* is Shakespeare's shortest play, at about 1,993 lines. However, the bloodshed and the complications that underscore Macbeth's deceptions cause for this play to be described as "a study in fear." Shakespeare chose to create Macbeth's world as a quagmire of deception and the confusion caused by what seems to be supernatural forces. The play begins with Macbeth and Banquo victorious for their Scottish king, Duncan, and immediately they meet the three witches (or weird sisters). These witches plant into Macbeth's head the opportunity to usurp Duncan's patriarchy and take it for himself. The play then falls off balance as mayhem, confusion, and deceptions become the mainstay of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth's characters. The entire Scottish world seems to have fallen upside down.

1. Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are both complex characters who seem to switch what would be considered "traditional" gender roles. Therefore, how does Shakespeare manipulate gender roles in his play, specifically focusing on Macbeth and Lady Macbeth? What is he saying about gender identity? **This response should be two (2) paragraphs long. When you cite, your citation should look like this (Shakespeare 2.3.45-49). This is for (Author Act.Scene.Lines).**

2. Shakespeare, as most authors, loves to create motifs that last the entirety of the work. In *Macbeth*, how does the witches' statement, "Fair is foul, and foul is fair" (1.1.12) work as a motif throughout the play? Look at different ways in which good actions/situations seem terrible and where terrible situations/actions seem wonderful. **This response should be two (2) paragraphs long. When you cite, your citation should look like this (Shakespeare 2.3.45-49). This is for (Author Act.Scene.Lines).**

## II. *Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus*

This text is an AP favorite!! As you will read in Mary Shelley's introduction, she, her husband and a group of friends were forced to stay inside due to a several day storm, so in the evenings, they all told "ghost stories." Shelley began to tell her tale of Victor Frankenstein and his creation, and she was inspired to write her only novel, *Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus*. In her vivid frame story, she creates an image of two beings immersed in sadness and loneliness. Shelley, whose life was immured in tragedy both prior to and following the writing of this novel, creates several moments where her protagonist, Victor, is imbued with "a fervent longing to penetrate the secrets of nature" and who wants to probe "the deepest mysteries of creation." As Victor is inspired by both the death of his mother and witnessing the magnificent power of a lighting storm, he delves into the creation of the Creature.

This haunting tale is one of the quintessential texts of the British Romantic period, underscoring man's constant need to outdo nature. The epistolary tale is told from three points of view, starting with Robert Walton, a mariner who has a need to explore and stumbles upon Victor in the Arctic. Then, as Victor begins and continues this tale, the third narrator, the Creature, tells his excruciating yarn of inspiration and compassion to utter demise and evil.

1. The Romantics loved to make connections between the individual and the natural world. Nature was supreme, and man should work with nature not against it. How does nature work for and/or against Victor and the Creature in this novel? Is Shelley trying to make a statement here? If so, what is she trying to say, if not, which character seems to be the most connected to nature and why? Explain using specific references from the novel. **This response should be two (2) paragraphs in length and cite from the novel, i.e., (Shelley 62).**

2. Show how the characters exemplify the theme of loneliness in the novel through the repetition of images found with Victor, the creature, and even Robert. Explain using specific references from the novel. **This response should be two (2) paragraphs in length and cite from the novel, i.e., (Shelley 62).**

**\*\*\*Do not forget to mark instances throughout the text, not just the first half of the text. Proper MLA format is required for both responses!!**

**GOOD LUCK!!**

**ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!!**

**Sample MLA Format for Responses:**

Stefan Smith

Smith 1

Mr. Blair

AP English Literature & Composition

18 August 2017

Your Title

Now, begin your two or three-paragraph response. No first person, unless the first person is inside the quotation. Citations should be used, even with paraphrase to give credit to the author. Be sure you have 1.0" margins, and that the entire reflection is formatted like this, and double-spaced. If you have questions, please e-mail your AP teacher.

**Rubric for Responses:**

You will usually receive single questions regarding sections of a piece of literature or an entire work. You will have specified paragraph lengths throughout the year. Your responses should be in MLA format ALWAYS. You must also reference the text for support of your claim. Each response will be worth twenty-five (25) points.

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|---|-----|
| 1. Appropriate length (paragraph requirement), MLA format with accurate citations, etc. | /10 |
| 2. Analysis of the topic with significant examples:                                     | /10 |
| 3. Grammar/spelling/diction/syntax:   | /5  |
| Total:  | /25 |

Summer reading will be worth 100 points for all four responses combined.

## 2019/2020 Willowbrook English Department

### Academic Honesty and Plagiarism Policy/Contract

Plagiarism is a violation of school rules and results in the cancellation of all grades associated with the assignment. A serious offense is grounds for suspension or expulsion at many colleges and has derailed the career of a number of academics and politicians.

Technically, plagiarism is the act of claiming another person's writing or ideas as one's own without giving credit to that original author. Even taking an idea from someone else and including it in your paper without a citation after it is plagiarism. This includes taking another student's work. Be careful, ask when you are not sure, and lean over backwards to give credit where credit is due. Also, if you are using websites that are created to cheat, copy, purchase, and/or take essays, then you will receive a zero.

The following is the definition for plagiarism according to *Black's Law Dictionary*.

*Plagiarism: The act of appropriating the literary composition of another, or parts or passages of his writing, or the ideas or language of the same, and passing them off as the product of one's mind.*

*To be liable for plagiarism, it is not necessary to exactly duplicate another's literary work, it being sufficient if unfair use of such work is made by lifting of substantial portion thereof.*

To avoid plagiarism, be sure to conform to the following (adapted from *Lester's Guide of the Research Paper*):

1. Acknowledge all borrowed material, whether it is a direct quotation or paraphrasing of another's idea. Introduce the information with the authority's name and include the source of information in a properly formatted parenthetical citation.
2. Always put quotation marks around direct quotations, along with citing them.
3. Simply rearranging material which is not originally yours into your own words is still plagiarism; be sure to cite the ideas of others clearly.
4. Include documentation for every piece of borrowed material.
5. Include a properly formatted works cited entry in the "Works Cited" page for each source that is used in your assignment; do not include works that you did not cite.

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to the written work. Use of another person's work or ideas without acknowledgement will always result in the aforementioned consequences. Examples including musical compositions, artwork, projects, computer software, websites, peer's work, etc.

The consequences for plagiarized work will be a zero on the assignment and a Dean's referral.

**Contract: I have read this information sheet. I fully understand my responsibility to cite all sources and the devastating consequences to my English grade (zeroes on all related grades) if I plagiarized or in any way fail to give credit.**

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**Student's Printed Name**

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**Signature**

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**Date**

**Contract: I have received this policy and discussed it with my student. I understand the consequences of failing to honor this policy.**

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**Parent's/Guardian's Printed Name**

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**Parent's/Guardian's Signature**

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**Date**