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AP/Honors Literature and Composition
Summer Reading Work 2026
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Welcome to ap Literature and composition
ALL WORK MUST BE HANDWRITTEN!

Your summer reading is an essential component to start the year right. The works listed below were selected to prepare you for success in your AP Literature and Composition Class!

Please read the following over the summer:

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro

A) For EACH NOVEL/Short Story, complete the following:

1. Historical information: When and where does the novel take place and what social or cultural significant events are occurring in that time period?
2. Biographical information: What are some important facts about the author that contribute to the understanding of the story?
3. Characteristics of the genre: What is the genre of the book and what are the characteristics of that genre?
4. Plot Summary: What are the main or most important events that occur in the novel? (At least 6 events and explain their significance)
5. Author's Style: Describe the author's syntax and diction. If you don't know what these mean or how to apply them, just describe how the author describes events and/or characters. For example: Give a quote from the text that you feel exemplifies their style.
6. Memorable Quotes: Write down 10 quotes from the beginning, middle and end of the novel and explain why they are important to one of the following: Character, Setting, Conflict, Theme or a Literary Device such as Simile, Metaphor, Personification, Imagery, Symbolism, or Allusion (Try to apply each term at least once)
7. Characters: Write down the name, role and significance of the main characters and 2-3 adjectives that describe each character.
8. Setting: The specific time, place and era the novel takes place.
9. Symbols: Any objects, people, or places that you feel are representative of something else. Make sure you tell me the symbol as well as what it represents.
10. Possible Themes: What are **three** possible themes? Remember a theme is what the author is trying to show us about human nature or life. Theme is NOT one word. What can we all relate to?
11. Significance of the opening scene: Why is the opening scene important? What does it set up or how does it add to the rest of the novel?
12. Significance of the closing scene: Why is the closing scene important? How does it conclude the novel or what message does it leave us with?

Choose One the following essay prompts:

Option 1: Creation and Moral Responsibility

Both *Never Let Me Go* and *Frankenstein* explore the consequences of creating life without fully considering ethical responsibility. **In a well-developed essay, analyze how each text presents the relationship between creators and their creations. Discuss what responsibility, if any, scientists, institutions, or society have toward the beings they create. Use specific characters and events from both texts to support your response.**

Option 2: Humanity, Identity, and What Makes a “Human”

Both novels challenge the reader to think about what it means to be human. **In a well-developed essay, compare how *Never Let Me Go* and *Frankenstein* portray characters who question their identity and place in society. Explain how each text defines humanity through emotion, experience, or treatment by others, and discuss whether the “creators” or society are more responsible for shaping identity.**

Summer Reading Grades:

When you return in the fall I will check your work for both novels *Frankenstein* and *Never Let Me Go* in the first week.

You will be tested on the two novels within the first marking. I realize that both of the summer reading texts can be easily obtained online and that you could complete the work without reading the book. But the essay prompt you were given will be impossible to complete unless you have actually read the texts. Please do not attempt to write an essay on a book you haven't read, it will not go well.

DO NOT take the answers from on-line; you will receive a ZERO if you are suspected of plagiarizing or using an AI in any form.

FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE SUMMER READING WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF AP GRADE STATUS and FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE SUMMER READING WILL AFFECT THE 1ST MARKING PERIOD GRADE, AS THIS IS ASSIGNMENT WILL BE GRADED AS A TEST and Quiz GRADE.

Good Luck, and remember it's never too early to start your summer reading!