

Honors British Literature

Reading List 2026-2027

Required Summer Reading:

Frankenstein Mary Shelley

Pygmalion George Bernard Shaw

You will have a test on the first day of school on *Pygmalion*, and you have an assigned essay due on *Frankenstein* the first day of school as well. The essay topic is located at the end of this novel list.

Suggested Readings for Novel Reports During the School Year:

Anna Karenina Leo Tolstoy

Pride and Prejudice Jane Austen

The Fixer Bernard Malamud

The Mayor of Casterbridge Thomas Hardy

Tess of the D'Urbervilles Thomas Hardy

A Passage to India E.M. Forster

Mill on the Floss George Eliot

Wuthering Heights Emily Bronte

Jane Eyre Charlotte Bronte

The Power and the Glory Graham Greene

Cry, the Beloved Country Alan Paton

Brave New World Aldous Huxley

Lord Jim Joseph Conrad

David Copperfield Charles Dickens

Great Expectations Charles Dickens

Dracula Bram Stoker

The Stranger Albert Camus

Moll Flanders Daniel Defoe

A Guest of Honour Nadine Gordimer
The Picture of Dorian Gray Oscar Wilde
The Importance of Being Earnest Oscar Wilde
The House of Spirits Isabel Allende
The African Queen C.S. Forester
Candide Voltaire
The Once and Future King T.H. White
Murder in the Cathedral T.S. Eliot
Sons and Lovers D.H. Lawrence

For Class Discussion and Analysis:

Edith Hamilton's *Mythology* (to be read during the summer and tested on during the first and second six weeks grading periods). This is your responsibility to read over the summer. No further reading assignments or reminders will be given during the school year.

There are no acceptable excuses for late work. Manage your time and do not wait until the last minute. I do not want to hear that your printer would not work or that your printer ran out of ink or that you do not have a computer and, therefore, had to wait for your best friend to finish his/her report before you could type yours.

All novel reports are to be typed in Times New Roman – 12 pt. font and placed in a folder that you are responsible for maintaining for the entire year. Each report is to be handed in with all previous reports. Newly completed novel reports will not be accepted without previously graded reports.

Cliff's Notes or SparkNotes on any literary work will not be acceptable as reference material.

Remember: The required essay is due on the first day of school. There are no acceptable excuses for late work. Manage your time and do not wait until the last minute! If the essay is not ready the first day, be prepared to be placed in the Survey of British Literature class.

****ESSAY TOPIC FOR *Frankenstein* ****

Trace the similarities between Victor and the monster. Consider their respective relationships with nature, desires for family, and any other important parallels you find. Do Victor and the monster become more similar as the novel goes on? How does their relationship with each other develop?

Novel Report Format (to be used during the school year for novel reports only)

1. Full title and author (in complete sentence form).
2. Place and time published (for edition you used).
3. Type of work (is it a novel or prose fiction?) Is it picaresque, sentimental, romantic, realistic, utilitarian, satiric, naturalistic, stream-of-consciousness, sociological, political, symbolic, or a combination of the two or more?
4. Point of view. Refer to characters and significance.
5. Organization (Explain by reference to the plot.)
 - a. If orthodox (beginning, middle, and end in that order) point out exposition, inciting incident, ascending interest, climax, conclusion
 - b. If unorthodox, then what? (flashbacks, stream-of-consciousness, *in medias res*, etc.)
6. Characters. Give a written character sketch of one major and one minor character. Use references to indirect and direct characterization, flat, round, stereotype, or stock characters.
7. Purpose. Is the novel aesthetic or iconoclastic? Explain and support with details from the novel.
8. Is the author in any way presenting a phase of American, English, or Continental life? If the answer is no, then what kind is presented? Explain either choice.
9. Unity and style (technique). Does the novel possess organic unity? Why or why not? Is the style related to its unity or disunity? (In answering this question, discuss the style itself.)
10. If you have not discussed it earlier, show how this novel is or is not characteristic of its author as a craftsman, philosopher, etc.
11. You must use MLA format. A Works Cited page is required.