

Downingtown Area School District
Summer Reading 2020
AP English Literature and Composition

The following books are available in libraries and bookstores; however, we recommend you purchase these books if possible so that you can highlight passages and make marginal notes.

Part I: Read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines (Revised Edition)* by Thomas C. Foster. This practical and oftentimes amusing guide to literature is the perfect companion for making your reading experiences more enriching, satisfying, and fun. The author is a Professor of English at the University of Michigan, Flint, where he teaches classes in contemporary fiction, drama and poetry as well as creative writing and composition.

Electronic materials for *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines (Revised Edition)* are available on YouTube and the following websites:

https://moodle.nisdx.org/pluginfile.php/1105979/mod_resource/content/1/Lit%20Like%20a%20Prof%20Notes.pdf

<https://www.coursehero.com/lit/How-to-Read-Literature-Like-a-Professor/summaries/>

<https://www.litcharts.com/lit/how-to-read-literature-like-a-professor/summary>

Part II: Read *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley and complete the assignment on the back of this sheet. This novel resonates with philosophical and moral ramifications: themes of nurture versus nature, good versus evil, and ambition versus social responsibility dominate readers' attention and provoke thoughtful consideration of the most sensitive issues of our time and is often listed as a choice for the free response essay on the AP English Literature and Composition exam.

Part III: Read *The Awakening* (a story within *The Awakening and Selected Short Fiction* with an introduction and notes by Rachel Adams) by Kate Chopin. As evidenced by the many reprints of the book, modern critics appreciate Chopin's skill and artistry—particularly her use of psychological realism, symbolic imagery, and sensual themes. The feminist movement lauds Chopin's portrayal of Edna and the restraints tradition places on women. Prepare to discuss this short fiction piece.

Part IV: Read *The Narrative of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave* by Frederick Douglass. This memoir is a prime example of literary non-fiction and an important part of the American literary canon. Prepare to discuss this memoir.

Visit Project Gutenberg at <https://www.gutenberg.org> for electronic copies of *Frankenstein*, *The Awakening*, and *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*.

Downingtown Area School District
Summer Reading 2020
AP English Literature and Composition

Observing Literature: AP Literature Summer Reading Assignment

Now that you have read summaries of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, you should put his ideas into practice. After reading Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, you will be required to submit a two to three page analytical reflection based on conclusions drawn from your observations. In other words, what patterns of meaning do you recognize and how do they relate to the novel? This is an analytical reflection NOT a five-paragraph essay; it should have a cohesive and cogent focus (like every paper you write). Be sure to frequently integrate quoted words/phrases (as opposed to dropping in entire lines of text) and refer to specific examples; details always authenticate your ideas.

To prepare for this paper, make notes* in the margins (or on Post-it notes) of *Frankenstein* and/or take notes of your observations during and immediately after you read. Your observations of the work need not be complete sentences and should include those literary features identified in Foster's book. Some topics for consideration include:

- The role of weather, food, water, sex, and sight
- The role of violence, illness, blindness and death
- The role of flight, the supernatural, and mythology
- The role of allusions, symbols, and irony

*Your instructor may collect these notes when you return to school in August.