

AP Literature Summer Reading Assignment

One of your summer reading assignments is Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (her original 1818 novel). I am asking you to read this novel closely and create a dialectical journal. You will need your copy of this novel in class with you during the first weeks of school.

Read all of the instructions carefully and email me if you have any questions about the assignments.

All instructions and prompts for these assignments are on the next pages.

1. **Background/Context:** Prior to reading, complete the Background Document. **Due the first day of class.**
2. **Dialectical Journal:** As you read, you will complete a dialectical journal. A dialectical journal is a conversation with the text. Your dialectical journal may be hand-written or typed. This will be submitted on the first day of class, so bring this to school with you (printed copy if typed, no online submissions accepted). **Due the first day of class.**
3. **Literary Analysis:** Within the first month of school, you will complete two brief literary analyses on chosen aspects of the novel. More instructions and specifics will be given in class. For these reflections, you will be expected to cite textual evidence (quotes/passages from the novel) to support your claim. While we will look at various passages together in class, you should note/annotate passages that you feel are applicable to the prompts given. Broad topics: Role of Nature, Epistolary/Frame Structure, Romantic/Gothic Literature

Background/Context

Before reading/listening, look up the following topics and terms to help you better understand the novel. Write a few notes to record your findings.

Gothic Novel—look at the gothic novels from Mary Shelley’s time	
Romantic Literary Movement	
Epistolary Structure	
Frame Structure	
Mary Shelley (Look at her life and influences such as the Industrial Revolution and the French Revolution)	

Dialectical Journal

Come to the first day of class with 10 significant quotes/passages entered in the left column of our journal. And thoughtful reflections written/typed in the right column.

What is a dialectical journal? This journal reflects an ongoing conversation with the text. This will likely be your first practice with a dialectical journal. This is low pressure and low stakes but will help you develop a better understanding of *Frankenstein*, and this will be a tool we utilize for other texts we read in class this year. For those of you who have had me in class previously, this is similar to responding to and reflecting on weekly quotes.

The Assignment: Create a dialectical journal for *Frankenstein*. Journal entries may be typed entries (12 point, Times New Roman) or neatly written in blue or black ink. Each entry must have a passage from the novel and a response to each passage. There are various points of view in the novel (Victor's, the creature's, and Walton's). Make sure your entries capture these differing perspectives.

Entries:

Volume 1

Letters 1-4—1 entry

Chapters 1-7—2 entries

Volume 2

Chapters 1-9—3 entries

Volume 3

Chapters 1-7—3 entries

“Walton in Continuation”—1 entry

For each dialectical journal, consider the following:

—As you read, choose passages that stand out to you. Pause and relisten to the audio so that you can record the passage in the left-hand column of the T-chart. Always include the audio time stamp for the passage. For example if you pause the audio and the passage is one hour and fifteen minutes into the audiobook, you would type or write out the quote and then type/write (1:15).

—Look for passages that seem significant, powerful, and thought provoking.

- Effective or creative use of stylistic or literary devices
- Structural shifts or turns in the plot
- A passage that makes you realize something you hadn't seen before
- Examples of patterns: recurring images, symbols, or motifs
- Passages that describe a particular character

—In the right column, write your response to the text (your ideas, insights, questions, reflections, and comments).

EXAMPLE DIALECTICAL JOURNAL

Passage from the text and correct MLA citation	Student's comments and/or questions
<p><i>"My affection for my guest increases every day. He excites at once my admiration and my pity to an astonishing degree. How can I see so noble a creature destroyed by misery without feeling the most poignant grief? He is so gentle, yet so wise; his mind is so cultivated, and when he speaks, although his words are culled with the choicest art, yet they flow with rapidity and unparalleled eloquence" (19).</i></p>	<p>It is obvious that Robert Walton yearns to find someone to talk to that will understand him and be a true friend. But, why does he call Victor Frankenstein a "creature"? Also, "choice art" makes me think about what art is available regarding Frankenstein the monster and the novel. I wonder how many artists have drawn or used Frankenstein as inspiration for their work, especially after the movie was made in 1931. Will investigate Frankenstein and art. And, will also watch the movie or movies. I wonder how the movie compares to the novel. Saw the movie - it is drastically different. (102 words)</p>

Helpful video to help explain what a dialectical journal is if it is new to you:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHpqt_N8ez4