

Gifted English II
Summer Reading Assignments
New Albany High School

TEXTS: *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
 Cold Sassy Tree by Olive Ann Burns

MATERIALS: Two folders with brads (one for each novel).
 Loose leaf notebook paper
 Blue or black ink only

FORMATTING: Each assignment folder should be clearly labeled with the student's name and the name of the novel in the center of the folder cover.

Each assignment should have a heading beginning on the first line of the top left-hand corner. The heading should include the student's name, the name of the text (underlined), and the assignment number.

Begin each of the assignments on a new page.

Write in complete sentences.

Neatness and organization do count as part of your grade.

GRADE VALUE: Each of the assignment folders counts as a major grade. They are due the second day of school; your grade will drop a letter grade for each day the assignment is late.

Also, a test will be given on these books the first week of school. Students will need to bring the books to class during the first weeks of school.

Students should thoroughly read both of the books, not just one of the many summaries that are widely available.

Students should do their own work on the summer assignments. Copying the work of other students or material that is available on the internet is considered plagiarism and will result in a grade of zero.

Students may discuss the novels with classmates, but should not work in groups to complete assignments. One purpose of the summer assignments is for the teacher to get a sense of each student's personal voice and writing style.

Students should use their best organizational and writing skills and proofread carefully for grammatical errors. Be sure to follow all instructions.

Assignments for *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley:

1. Writers use two predominant methods to tell the reader about the characters in their work – direct and indirect characterization. Shelley uses both methods to characterize Dr. Frankenstein and the Monster. As you read, look for specific quotes that either tell you directly what these characters are like or that give you clues as to what they are like. These quotes should include both physical characteristics and personality traits. Find at least ten characterization quotes for each character – five direct and five indirect. Copy these and include the page number where they can be found.
2. Frankenstein is considered to be a part of the literary genre known as Gothic. Go to <http://academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/english/melani/gothic/gothic.html> and pay attention to the elements of Gothic literature. For each of the twelve characteristics listed on this page, find at least one quote or passage that illustrates it. On your paper, write the characteristic and the quote/passage, being sure to include the page number.
3. Choose the three Gothic characteristics from #2 that you think are most exemplified in the novel. Write a five paragraph essay in which you explain your choices. You should include an introduction with a thesis statement, three body paragraphs that contain clear, concise statements, and a conclusion.
4. Go to <http://www.georgiasouthern.edu/%7Edoug/goth.html> . Familiarize yourself with the literary Gothic terms listed on this page. Choose the six terms that you feel are most exemplified in the novel. Write a paragraph for each explaining how the term is used in the novel.
5. Edgar Allan Poe is considered a master of Gothic literature. Go to <http://poestories.com/index.php> . Choose one of Poe’s short stories that you feel has characteristics in common with Shelley’s novel; you may pick any of his “Detective,” “Horror,” or “Mystery” stories. Print one copy of the story to place in your folder. Then write a five paragraph essay in which you discuss three characteristics that the two works share. You should include an introduction with a thesis statement, three body paragraphs that contain clear, concise topic sentences, and a conclusion. To show your own voice and reactions, it is strongly suggested each of you choose a different story and/or discuss different similarities.

Assignments for *Cold Sassy Tree* by Olive Ann Burns:

1. Character development is essential to this novel. The reader begins to understand the different inhabitants of Cold Sassy through Will’s omniscient knowledge of them. In fact, Will is often privy to private information about the characters that no one else knows. Trace these “secrets” that Will shares with the townspeople. Document at least five such secrets by citing the page numbers on which they are explained and paraphrasing them in one full paragraph each. Each paragraph should include a comment on how the secret indirectly characterizes the individual who holds it.

2. *Cold Sassy Tree* is a **bildungsroman** – a novel that chronicles a single individual’s development from adolescence to maturity. Its characteristics include:
- The growth of the main character within a prescribed social order.
 - The process of maturing resembling a “quest” – a journey embarked upon by a “hero” who must face seemingly insurmountable obstacles in order to attain a goal while exhibiting great courage.
 - The spur of the hero on his journey by some form of loss or discontent, which jars him at an early stage away from the home or family setting.
 - A long, arduous, and gradual process of maturity consisting of repeated clashes between the protagonist’s needs and desires and the views and judgments enforced by an unbending social order.
 - The eventual realization of the spirit and values of the predominant social order in the main character, who then takes a new place in the societal order.

Write a seven-paragraph essay in which you examine how each of these characteristics is exhibited in the novel. You should include an introduction with a thesis statement, five body paragraphs that contain clear, concise topic sentences, and a conclusion.

3. Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird* is also a bildungsroman, one of the many characteristics the two novels share. Choose three characters from Lee’s novel who have similarities with three characters in Burn’s novel. Think of five similarities that each pair share; write these in concise sentences (fifteen sentences total). Then use these similarities to construct a five-paragraph essay in which you discuss these characters’ similarities. You should include an introduction with a thesis statement, five body paragraphs that contain clear, concise topic sentences, and a conclusion.