

May 2009

Dear Parents and Junior A.P. Students:

We are eager to meet you in our A.P. classes. You will be expected to read **three** books over the summer. Please use the suggestions below to guide your reading.

Thomas Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge* and Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* are two of the readings. For each book you will keep a double-entry journal (an example is on the back of this letter).

- You will be required to make 10 double-journal entries for each book.
- You will put quotes on the left side and reflective responses on the right side of each page.
- You may choose the chapters from which to journalize, but they must be representative of the **entire** novel. (For example, they all may not be from the beginning of the novel, but must be interspersed from the beginning, middle, and end of the novel.)
- Please remember that these are to be **your insightful reactions** to the characters, conflicts, issues, etc. for that chapter, **not summaries**.
- You will turn in both journals upon your return to school in August. Your teacher will choose one to grade; you will take a test in class on the other book.

For your third book, you may choose one novel from the titles listed below. When you enter class in August, you will bring a "reduction" of the novel you read based on characters, themes, symbols, conflicts, style, etc. Follow the instructions and examples for "reductions" demonstrated in your sophomore English class (and attached here). Your choices are:

Dubliners, Joyce

The Quiet American, Greene

Brighton Rock, Greene

The End of the Affair, Greene

Howard's End, Forster

Your summer reading assignments will be recorded as your first major grades for the first quarter. Please be advised that, as a college-level course, some of these books and others you will encounter during the year may contain mature material.

For further information, go to <http://lakewoodcityschools.org/>. Go to the Lakewood High School main page and look for the link for summer reading.

Enjoy your summer and your summer reading and return in the fall ready for the challenges of an exciting new school year!

Sincerely,

Junior A.P. Teachers

Double-Entry Journal: Models

Responding to the text:

Draw a line down the middle of a page. On the left side, copy a *meaningful* passage from the book you're reading – perhaps a bit of dialogue, a description, or a character's thought. (Be sure to note the number of the page from which you copied it – you may want to find it later.) On the right side, write your response to the quotation. Why did you choose it? Did it puzzle you? Confuse you? Strike a chord? What does it mean to you?

Examples

Quotation	Response
“It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.” (Page 1)	This is the first sentence of the book. When I first read it I thought the writer was serious – it seemed like something people might have believed when it was written. Soon I realized she was making fun of that attitude. I wondered how much of the novel was written in that same way, and if I would understand the author's humor. It is not too obvious. Will the entire story be about finding a good wife or husband?

(example is from *Pride and Prejudice*)

“But to her unaccustomed vision the stretch of water behind her assumed the aspect of a barrier which her unaided strength would never be able to overcome.”
(Page 89)

The distance between Edna and the shore symbolizes the distance she will put between herself and society, if she embarks on her quest for self. In this moment, such a distance seems insurmountable and dangerous to her, which speaks to how difficult her personal journey is going to be. I wonder if she will ever overcome her fear and accomplish learning to swim. At this point, also, I see this as a symbol of her independence and, perhaps, freedom from her stifling life as wife and mother in society as it exists in her day. But what can she do about it?

(example is from *The Awakening*)