

Welcome to AP English Literature and Composition! Please complete the following assignment, which is due by **Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>**. (You may email it to me at [amchugh@delranschools.org](mailto:amchugh@delranschools.org) any time before the due date.)

1. Read your “Delran Reads” selection and be prepared to work with it during our first BEAR Day.
2. Read and annotate **Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein***. Then, respond to the following prompt, which appeared on the 2018 AP English Literature and Composition exam:

Many works of literature feature characters who have been given a literal or figurative gift. The gift may be an object, or it may be a quality such as uncommon beauty, great social position, great mental or imaginative faculties, or extraordinary physical powers. Yet this gift is often a burden or a handicap. Select a character from a novel, epic, or play who has been given a gift that is both an advantage and a problem. Then write a well-developed essay analyzing the complex nature of the gift and how the gift contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

(You may choose any work of recognized literary merit for the third Free-Response Question on the actual AP exam, **but you must write about *Frankenstein* for this essay.**)

**Note:** Please do not assume that you should respond to this prompt in a five-paragraph essay. You’ll obviously need an introduction and a conclusion, but your essay should contain as many body paragraphs as you have points to support your thesis. Be sure to use specific details, examples, and quotations from the novel to support your ideas. Your essay should be submitted in MLA format.

Make sure you read *Frankenstein* carefully, deliberately, and actively. Look up all unfamiliar words you encounter, and if you purchase the book, **annotate directly in the text as you read**. (Annotations are for your own benefit; they will not be graded. If you borrow the book, you should take notes on post-its or in a journal.) Either way, do everything you can to ensure that you have a thorough understanding of the novel.

We’ll spend two weeks working with *Frankenstein*, and you’ll have the opportunity to rewrite your essay once I return it with comments. (As always, I’ll be available to conference with any students who wish to discuss their revisions.)

If you have any questions, please email me at [amchugh@delranschools.org](mailto:amchugh@delranschools.org). Enjoy your summer!