

Senior AP Literature Summer Reading

Read the following: Mary Shelly's Frankenstein and Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen.

Write your responses in a bluebook. Write the prompt at the top of each page and the date of your entry. A good essay should be about 2 paragraphs in length. Be sure to use textual evidence. Spark notes and Cliff's notes are good sources to use after you have read the novel.

A. In the 4th Century B. C., Dante describes "Four Levels of Meaning" in his *Epistle* to the Divine Comedy. His idea is that the four levels are ways to search for deeper meaning in any literary work and so the four separate Blue Book Assignments for Frankenstein are as follows:

1. The first level of meaning is the literal level. What is Frankenstein about at its simplest level?
2. The second level of meaning is the allegorical level. Every character has a dual significance. Using the two major characters, analyze who they really represent.
3. The third level of meaning is the moral level. What does Frankenstein say about human morality? What is good and evil about the two major characters? What is your opinion about the actions of the two characters?
4. The final level is the spiritual level. What does the novel say about mankind's spiritual condition? How do character qualities like pride or perseverance sometimes become something quite different when difficulties occur? What modern-day people mirror the spiritual depravity of both Dr. Frankenstein and his monster?

B. Pride and Prejudice is a satirical look at English society and its customs.

1. . In a literary work, a minor character, often known as a foil, possesses traits that emphasize, by contrast or comparison, the distinctive characteristics and qualities of the main character. For example, the ideas of behavior of the minor character might be used to highlight the weaknesses or strengths of the main character. Chose a character that fits this description and explain how he or she highlights the main character.
2. In some works of literature, mothers or the concept of motherhood play central roles. Write an essay in which you discuss the maternal interaction between two characters and how that relationship relates to a larger theme represented by the work.
3. Some novels won't let you escape the social gathering. What would this novel be like if you ignored the social customs that govern the behavior of the Bennet family and their circle of friends and relatives?

