



KARNS HIGH AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

2017 – 2018 Summer Reading Assignments



READ MAJOR TEXTS

- Please read the entire assignment sheet before you begin so that you effectively organize your study.
- Read Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*.
- Read Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*.
- Both novels are on the Knox County approved reading list. Should either book prove offensive, you may email the instructor for an alternative assignment.

REFLECT AND READ – FRANKENSTEIN, PART I

- Read Samuel Taylor Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*
- Both *Rime* and *Frankenstein* feature an antihero, specifically a Byronic Hero.
- Briefly research the Byronic Hero so that you have a good understanding of the term.
- Write one or two paragraphs showing how both of these works showcase the Byronic Hero.
- Read Federic Brown's "The Weapon." You can find the story here: <https://writenowisgood.wordpress.com/the-weapon-questions/>
- Write a paragraph where you demonstrate your understanding of a shared theme between it and the novel *Frankenstein*.

REFLECT AND WATCH - FRANKENSTEIN, PART II

- Watch one of the movies based on the novel. (You might have to do a little google search to see what is available to you.) You may choose any of the movies.
- You only need to watch one movie.
- After you watch the movie, write a brief reflection that lists several of the differences between the novel and Hollywood's creation. After the list write a paragraph that speculates on WHY Hollywood created those differences.
- Remember to discuss with your parents your choice of movies as several selections are rated R and could contain objectionable material.

LISTEN AND REFLECT – HEART OF DARKNESS, PART I

- Write a brief personal reaction to Conrad's language and description of the Africans.
- Listen to an interview with Chinua Achebe on NPR. In the interview, Achebe provides his perspective of how Conrad portrays the Africans in the novel.
- The url to the short audio and brief description is <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=113835207>
- Write a paragraph on whether Achebe's ideas influence your own reaction. Does your initial reaction remain the same, or does he cause your reaction to change?

REFLECT AND VIEW – HEART OF DARKNESS, PART II

- Literary critics often refer to Conrad's style as impressionistic. Conrad does, indeed, paint indistinct pictures for the reader; he seems to focus more on the emotions and thoughts of the characters, creating an emotional landscape instead of a realistic one. Oftentimes, details (just like brushstrokes) can only be evaluated from a distance, from the whole.
- Look up the impressionist painting *Impression, Sunrise* (1872) by Claude Monet. (Below is a thumbnail image of the painting.)



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- After reading the first chapter, consider how Conrad's words create images that seem as indistinct as Monet's painting. Write a brief

description detailing how Conrad's diction creates an impression of mutability.

- Find a painting that you feel matches with chapter 2 and write a brief summary of its correlation to the chapter.
- Find a painting that you feel corresponds with chapter 3 and write a brief summary of how you see the connection.

REFLECT AND READ – HEART OF DARKNESS, PART III

- Read T. S. Eliot's "The Hollow Men" - <https://allpoetry.com/The-Hollow-Men>
- Write a brief reflection speculating on Eliot's inclusion of the allusion ("Mistah Kurtz – he dead") to the novel. In that speculation, you should determine how the poem relates to the novel's theme.
- Write a brief reflection on how the poem relates to you and your world.

PLEASE NOTE

- If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at renata.krumm@knoxschools.org – I will try to help you.
- You should not use a pencil to complete these assignments. You may type or use blue or black ink.
- Please label the various assignments. For example, you might have headings that label *Frankenstein*, Part I, etc.
- Also, please include the titles and artists of the artwork you select. If you can, I would appreciate a thumbnail image of the paintings you select. Please use impressionist paintings. (If you cannot find anything from that school, you may go beyond. However, you may not choose a work that directly illustrates the novella.)
- Please make sure to include the title of the movie you watched.
- These assignments should be submitted the second day of class. These readings will also provide the basis for two major projects.