

Dear Honors Juniors:

And you find yourself at that time again: you have had a great year with a great teacher, and now, before you can begin to enjoy your summer, you will learn a little about next year's English class.

Each year I consider changing the summer reading list, and each year I realize just how good the books are. This year has been simplified: by the beginning of August 2010, you will need to read *Frankenstein*, by Mary Shelley. Whichever version you come across, please try to get a copy of the 1818 edition as opposed to the 1830 "revision."

For the rest of the first quarter we will be reading *Gulliver's Travels*, by Jonathan Swift and T. S. Eliot's Modernist masterpiece, *The Waste Land*. You need not buy a copy of either of these yet, but you will need to during first quarter. I have listed the works--in MLA format, something you will spend much time with next year--at the bottom of this page, and I also included the ISBN number for each. You are not required to buy these exact versions, but they are recommended. The Penguin Classics editions provide excellent versions of the text and introductions.

This summer I hope to spend some serious time at Disneyland, playing sports and my guitars, and marshmallow-roasting with my wife and 3 boys (you will hear a lot about them next year). If you need to contact me, I will be and checking my e-mail through the summer at [Brian\\_McBride@cjuhsd.k12.ca.us](mailto:Brian_McBride@cjuhsd.k12.ca.us). Also, check out <http://teacherweb.com/CA/AltaLomaHigh/McBride/apt1.stm> for periodical updates.

Enjoy your summer, and be sure to read these and a few other great books. Yes, you will be responsible for "introducing" one other book to the class near the beginning of the year. Go to the teacherweb site for suggested readings. More information about this in August.

Sincerely,

Brian T. McBride

P.S. My line on annotations: for some of you, they are necessary, for others a necessary evil. So, they will not be "necessary" at all in terms of points at the beginning of the '10-'11 school year.

BUT . . .

You need to learn and use active reading skills; to truly interact with a text is to truly begin to understand its nuances. I strongly suggest you buy a copy, highlight or underline the most interesting or confusing parts, write in the margins, ask questions of the authors, note key vocabulary and characters; do all those fun things we call "annotations." Use Ms. Beeley's bookmark.

You will be held accountable for your reading during the first week of school. You will take a multiple-choice/short-answer exam for *Frankenstein*, and you will write an AP-style timed essay about it. As we discuss novels, you will know all the words, you will recognize the symbols, you will analyze the characters and themes, and you will create your arguments based on close readings of the text. Or, you will have problems.

SO . . .

If annotations help you, please do them; if you feel you can get by without them, do not worry about it. Also: enjoy your break, and be cool.

Eliot, T. S. *The Waste Land and Other Writings*. New York: Modern Library, 2002. [ISBN-13: 978-0375759345]  
Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein*. New York: Penguin Classics, 2003. [ISBN-13: 978-0141439471]  
Swift, Jonathan. *Gulliver's Travels*. New York: Penguin Classics, 2003. [ISBN-13: 978-0141439495]