

In Conroe ISD, we encourage all students to read over the summer in order to enrich learning and provoke thought. Summer reading strengthens reading skills, increases academic achievement, fosters a love for reading, and empowers students to become life-long learners. Additionally, students who enroll in advanced English courses are expected to engage in summer reading as it provides preparation for the upcoming school year and creates a common framework for classroom discussion and instruction.

Dear AP English IV Scholars:

Welcome to AP English IV--a college level literature and composition class. Our reading focus is literary fiction, and our writing focus is literary analysis. Therefore, READING literature is extremely important to this course, and it all starts with your summer reading assignment. In years past, I've assigned two novels; then last year happened, and doing little-to-no summer reading hurt my students foundationally. So this year, I would like you all to focus your attention on thoroughly reading ONE classic novel to begin our study and to build our foundation together, so get excited! This summer I would like for you to read the classic novel--

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte written in 1837

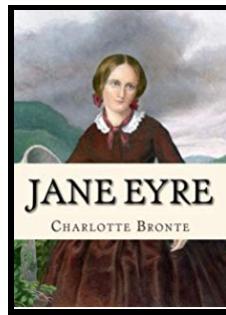
(Book cover may look different than pictured above--you may choose any publication or read a free PDF online)

This is Victorian literature, and as such, it can be challenging. I need you to rise to the challenge!

Here are some suggestions that can help you in your reading of *Jane Eyre*:

- This novel is organized by the FIVE locations on Jane's journey; keep these sections in mind as you read.
 - Gateshead Hall (ch. 1-4)
 - Lowood Institute (ch. 5-10)
 - Thornfield Hall (ch. 11-27)
 - Moor House (ch. 28-35)
 - Ferndean Manor (ch. 36-38)
- Keep a character list of all the characters you meet in each location/section. (You will be glad)
- Classic literature can be difficult. In the first four chapters, Jane is miserable, and you might be too (lol) just KEEP READING! This novel evokes passion and thinking! From its gothic and supernatural twists to its comments on mental illness and feminism, Queen Victoria herself called it "that intensely interesting novel" as she read it aloud to her husband, Prince Albert (Moss and Wilson).

Moss, Joyce, and George Wilson. "Jane Eyre." *Literature and Its Times: Profiles of 300 Notable Literary Works and the Historical Events that Influenced Them*, vol. 2: Civil Wars to Frontier Societies (1800-1880s), Gale, 1997, pp. 181-187. Literature subcollection,
link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX2875100109/GVRL.xlit.artemis137?u=j170902005&sid=GVRL.xlit.artemis137&xid=408eb17b. Accessed 26 Apr. 2021.



Other important information:

- As you read, you will of course annotate or take notes directly in the book. All of your annotations in *Jane Eyre* will be rewarded with **extra credit** points on the essay that we will write on this novel the fourth week of school.
- Additional optional Extra Credit: Along with your annotations, give a title to each and every chapter in *Jane Eyre*. Please do this in the book on the first page of each chapter or use a sticky note. Don't feel like your title has to be incredibly clever. It may simply state the main happening of that chapter, ex. "Jane returns to Gateshead" or it may go deeper, ex. for the same chapter, "Jane seeks forgiveness" This is evaluative in the short term and extremely helpful later.
- Plan to read *Jane Eyre* over the summer. In all seriousness, try to read most--if not ALL--of *Jane Eyre* **before** school starts. Our major grade timed writing over the novel will not be until the 4th week, but when school begins you will be very busy writing personal essays for college applications, discussing *Jane Eyre*, starting our 2nd novel, and working in other classes too, so read it now; start it now; don't delay!
- Also, there are numerous film versions of this novel, and many are very good; however, watching a film will not prepare you for the AP Lit & Comp exam or for this class. We are diving into the nuance and detail of literature which can only be gained by reading. SparkNotes can help, but there is no substitute for READING the text itself. Show me, and more importantly, show yourself what you can do with this novel.

In closing, Jane goes on a journey of self-discovery, and this novel will challenge you to think as you begin the journey that is your senior year! I can't wait to meet you! Happy reading and have a great summer. See you in August... let the journey begin!

Lovingly,

Mrs. Cox

P.S. If you have any questions about the assignment or as you read, please do not hesitate to email me at lcox@conroeisd.net