

AP Literature Summer Work 2025

Rising AP Literature and Composition Students

Due: First Day of School, bring your work with you in digital or printed form

Welcome

This summer assignment will help you prepare for the work we'll do together in AP Literature and Composition. It introduces key reading and writing skills, grounded in a single novel and supported by literary theory.

You'll engage with selected excerpts from classic literature and poetry and respond through learning activities to spark analysis and critical thinking. You'll also make connections to ideas from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* (HTRLLAP) using excerpts.

To get started, simply make a copy of this document into your own drive, or you can recreate each assignment on paper or digitally to be handed in on the first day of school. Bring your completed work with you on the first day of school in whatever format works best for you.

Text Options: Choose ONE work of classic literature

You will read selections from the book you choose and use them to complete the learning tasks listed below.

HTRLLAP Chapter	Key Concept	Frankenstein, by Mary Shelley	The Picture of Dorian Gray, by Oscar Wilde	Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, by Robert Louis Stevenson	Jane Eyre, by Charlotte Brontë
Ch. 1 – Every Trip Is a Quest	A journey involves goals, trials, and transformation	Letters I–IV, Ch. 3–4 – Victor's ambition and journey to create life begins	Ch. 1–5 – Dorian's social debut and internal shift as Lord Henry influences him	Ch. 1–2 – Utterson's investigation marks the start of a symbolic moral journey	Ch. 10–12 – Jane begins new life at Thornfield, entering emotional and moral growth arc
Ch. 10 – It's More Than Just Rain or Snow	Weather reflects mood, fate, cleansing, or transformation	Ch. 10 – Alpine setting of Victor's confrontation with the creature	Ch. 20 – Stormy atmosphere as Dorian faces the consequences of his actions	Ch. 5 – Gloomy fog mirrors duality and moral murkiness	Ch. 23–24 – Storms and weather parallel Rochester's secret and Jane's dread
Ch. 13 – It's All Political	Literature reflects social structures, power, injustice	Ch. 17 – The creature demands a mate; rejection echoes exclusion and hierarchy	Ch. 11–12 – Dorian's corrupt use of privilege and power becomes apparent	Ch. 9–10 – Social expectations pressure Jekyll to repress darker instincts	Ch. 23–27 – Jane reclaims her autonomy in defiance of gender/class constraints
Ch. 26 – Is He Serious? And Other Ironies	Irony reveals layered meanings or contradictions in characters or plot	Ch. 24 – Victor's final warning to Walton ironically echoes his own tragic blindness	Ch. 14–16 – Dorian performs charm and civility while covering up murder and decay	Ch. 8 – Jekyll's confession reveals tragic irony of self-destruction in pursuit of control	Ch. 27–28 – Jane returns to Rochester—blind and broken—yet he gains emotional clarity

Task 1: Reading Journal

Estimated Time: 1.5–2 hours

Write **five brief entries**, spaced throughout your novel. Each entry should include:

- A 2–3 sentence summary of a key moment
 - One direct quote from the text
 - A personal comment, reaction, or interpretive question
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Task 2: HTRLLAP Connection Table

Estimated Time: 1.5 hours

Read the summaries (or online guides) for the following four chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster. Then, use the connection table below to apply each concept to your chosen novel. Use the chapter references provided to guide your thinking. You may format your table however you prefer, but you must respond to all four categories for each chapter:

HTRLLAP Chapter	Key Idea	Related Chapters in Your Novel	How It Connects
Ch. 1 – Every Trip Is a Quest	A journey includes a quester, a goal, trials, and transformation	<i>Frankenstein</i> : Letters I–IV, Ch. 3–4 <i>Dorian Gray</i> : Ch. 1–5 <i>Jekyll & Hyde</i> : Ch. 1–2 <i>Jane Eyre</i> : Ch. 10–12	Describe how your main character undergoes a journey—literal, emotional, or moral—and how it reflects the classic quest structure.
Ch. 10 – It’s More Than Just Rain or Snow	Weather carries symbolic meaning—emotion, fate, cleansing, doom	<i>Frankenstein</i> : Ch. 10 <i>Dorian Gray</i> : Ch. 20 <i>Jekyll & Hyde</i> : Ch. 5 <i>Jane Eyre</i> : Ch. 23–24	Choose a scene where the weather is described. How does it reinforce the mood or theme of the moment?
Ch. 13 – It’s All Political	Literature often critiques power, class, or injustice	<i>Frankenstein</i> : Ch. 17 <i>Dorian Gray</i> : Ch. 11–12 <i>Jekyll & Hyde</i> : Ch. 9–10 <i>Jane Eyre</i> : Ch. 23–27	How does the novel comment on inequality, control, or societal expectations? Focus on a scene that highlights power dynamics.
Ch. 26 – Is He Serious? And Other Ironies	Irony reveals hidden meaning, contradiction, or satire	<i>Frankenstein</i> : Ch. 24 <i>Dorian Gray</i> : Ch. 14–16 <i>Jekyll & Hyde</i> : Ch. 8 <i>Jane Eyre</i> : Ch. 27–28	Identify a moment of irony in your novel. What is the deeper meaning or contradiction, and how does it affect the story?

Task 3: Character Reflection (Short Response)

Estimated Time: 45 minutes

Choose **one major character** from your novel. Write a paragraph from their point of view at a moment of regret, transformation, or realization. Include:

- The character’s current state of mind
- What they regret or wish they had done differently
- One direct quote from the novel to support your insight

Task 4: Poetry Response — Echoes Across Genres

Estimated Time: 1 hour

Choose **one** of the following poems (linked below) and complete both parts of the task:

1. [“The Grave of Keats” by Oscar Wilde](#)
2. [“The Waking” by Theodore Roethke](#)
3. [“When I Have Fears That I May Cease to Be” by John Keats](#)
4. [“Constantly Risking Absurdity” by Lawrence Ferlinghetti](#)
5. [“Facing It” by Yusef Komunyakaa](#)

Part A – Mini Analysis

- What is the central idea or feeling in the poem?
- What is one poetic device (imagery, symbolism, structure, tone, etc.) that helps convey it?
- How does this connect to your novel in terms of theme, tone, or character experience?
- Include one quote from the poem.

Part B – Creative Echo

Write a short poem (8–12 lines) that captures a key theme, emotion, or conflict from your novel. You may mimic the style or structure of the poem you selected or write freely.

Final Checklist (Bring on the First Day of School)

- Reading Journal – 5 short entries
- HTRLLAP Connection Table – 4 chapters
- Character Reflection – 1 paragraph (100–125 words)
- Poetry Response – 1 short paragraph + 1 original poem