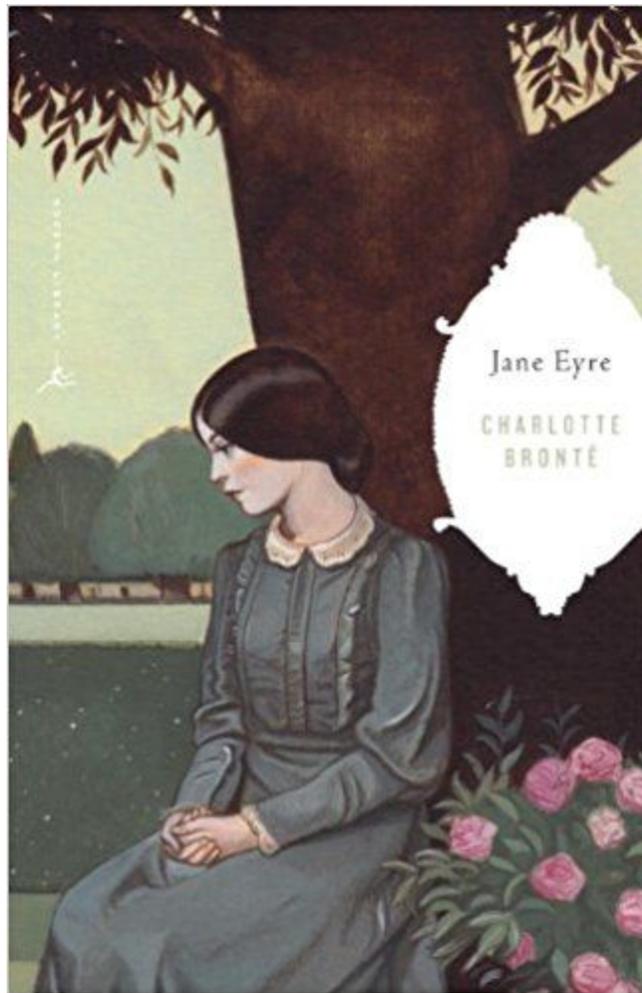


AP Literature Summer Reading

JANE EYRE

Charlotte Brontë



This year's summer reading is one of the classic novels of Victorian era Britain - *Jane Eyre* (pronounced Air). Like many other novels of its age, *Jane Eyre* is long, but it's quite plot-driven and rapidly engaging. Leave enough time to finish the novel, but don't start reading until August. Yes, procrastinate! I want the novel to be fresh in all of our minds when we convene in late August.

As you read the novel, annotate as you would any reading you're engaging actively. In addition, I'd like you to choose TWO of the following previous AP exam questions and pay particular attention to them as you read, think, ponder. Take notes on the topics in any particular form you wish - hard copy, google doc, etc. Be prepared to turn your notes into a formal outline early in the school year.

Please order the Modern Library Classics edition of the novel so we will be working with the same page numbers. I've included the ISBN number and a link to Amazon.

ISBN-13: 978-0679783329

<https://amzn.to/2yxY8sG>

QUESTIONS: Choose TWO

1. Select a novel, play, or epic poem that features a character whose origins are unusual or mysterious. Then write an essay in which you analyze how these origins shape the character and that character's relationships, and how the origins contribute to the meaning of the work as a whole.

2. Many works of literature contain a character who intentionally deceives others. The character's dishonesty may be intended either to help or to hurt. Such a character, for example, may choose to mislead others for personal safety, to spare someone's feelings, or to carry out a crime. Choose a novel or play in which a character deceives others. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze the motives for that character's deception and discuss how the deception contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.

3. A bildungsroman, or coming-of-age novel, recounts the psychological or moral development of its protagonist from youth to maturity, when this character recognizes his or her place in the world. Select a single pivotal moment in the psychological or moral development of the protagonist of a bildungsroman. Then write a well-organized essay that analyzes how that single moment shapes the meaning of the work as a whole.

4. Palestinian American literary theorist and cultural critic Edward Said has written that "Exile is strangely compelling to think about but terrible to experience. It is the unhealable rift forced between a human being and a native place, between the self and its true home: its essential sadness can never be surmounted." Yet Said has also said that exile can become "a potent, even enriching" experience. Select a novel, play, or epic in which a character experiences such a rift and becomes cut off from "home," whether that home is the character's birthplace, family, homeland, or other special place. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the character's experience with exile is both alienating and enriching, and how this experience illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

5. In Kate Chopin's *The Awakening* (1899), protagonist Edna Pontellier is said to possess "That outward existence which conforms, the inward life that questions." In a novel or play that you have studied, identify a

character who outwardly conforms while questioning inwardly. Then write an essay in which you analyze how this tension between outward conformity and inward questioning contributes to the meaning of the work. Avoid mere plot summary.

6. In many works of literature, past events can affect, positively or negatively, the present activities, attitudes, or values of a character. Choose a novel or play in which a character must contend with some aspect of the past, either personal or societal. Then write an essay in which you show how the character's relationship to the past contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.

**Have a
terrific summer
and enjoy your
reading!**