



Rising Tenth Grade Summer Reading

You are required to read two books, *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan, **and** *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley. Please see both sides of this page for your complete instructions. While you will need to provide your own copy of *Frankenstein*, you may pick up a copy of *Pilgrim's Progress* in the school office after June 20.

Assignment I:

Pilgrim's Progress

According to Christian literary scholar Leland Rykan, *The Pilgrim's Progress* is a “Christian classic whose importance is impossible to overstate...[ranking] just behind the King James Bible as the most important book in evangelical Protestant households” for two hundred years after its publication. *The Pilgrim's Progress* is an **allegory** that describes the journey of the character Pilgrim as he travels through many obstacles toward the Celestial City.

Pilgrim's Progress is an extended **allegory**. An **allegory is a type of figurative language in which characters, places, and events have both a literal interpretation AND a spiritual or abstract interpretation as well.** *Pilgrim's Progress* is a Christian spiritual allegory that, on a figurative level, represents the process of sanctification that every Christian goes through as we journey through our lives on earth in preparation for our eternal home in heaven. *Pilgrim's Progress* is often used for groups or individuals to work through as a devotional reading, and it is in that frame that we hope you will begin the work this summer. Our prayer is that you not only enjoy the literal story, but that you also look up the scriptural annotations and pray as you read through the work, making application of its principles in your own life and using this reading to further your knowledge and understanding of scripture.

Over the summer, you are only being asked to read *Pilgrim's Progress* through the loss of the central character's burden (“That just as Christian came up with the Cross, his Burden loosed from off his shoulders, and fell from off his back....”). You are certainly welcome to continue reading, but your basic comprehension of this section is all that will be assessed the first week of school before we complete the book in the fall. Please do your best to begin understanding Bunyan's allegory and making connections between it and Scripture.



Assignment II:

Frankenstein

You should also read Mary Shelley's unabridged *Frankenstein*. There are two significantly different versions of this novel—one published in 1818 and one published in 1831. Be sure that whatever copy you read—and there are many versions out there—is based on the 1818 text. One version we recommend is ISBN-13: 978-1530278442, which is not only the correct text, but which also has some annotations which will aid in your understanding of the text.

During your reading of *Frankenstein*, you should highlight the text, taking notes on the characters of Victor Frankenstein, his monster, and Robert Walton. Then, you will write a five-paragraph essay describing how obsession—the ruling of decision by emotion—drives these characters. Be sure to highlight not only the motivators all three might have in common, but also how they contrast with each other (e.g., how is Robert's trajectory altered after hearing Victor's story?). Printed copies of this paper, typed in MLA format, will be due the first day of school.

While not required, I recommend that you turn in this assignment by June 29. If you do, you will receive 5 bonus points to be applied to your first test in literature. You may drop your completed essay on *Frankenstein* off at the school office during summer office hours.

As discussed in class, I will be available all summer to answer questions or help clarify the reading and writing assignments. Please email Mrs. Taylor at ctaylor@tcsopelika.org if you have any questions.