A variety of wonderful summer reading selections follow: one play, one novel, and two essays. All materials are available from your local library, area bookstores, as well as online booksellers.

**Shakespeare, William. *Much Ado About Nothing.***
One of Shakespeare’s best-loved and most sophisticated comedies, this play introduces two couples, one conventional and one quite unconventional, who face obstacles, both harrowing and amusing, before finding happiness.

**Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein.***
In Shelley’s classic gothic tale, subjects raised include the pursuit of knowledge, society’s ability to corrupt goodness, hubris, love, revenge, and personal responsibility. Take note of the novel’s epistolary structure, a common technique in early British novels. (This novel is subtitled *The Modern Prometheus.* Before reading the novel, read the Greek myth of Prometheus, which is on many websites.)

**Essays:**
**Tan, Amy. “Mother Tongue.”** In this essay, Tan describes the variety of “Englishes” she uses. This essay is available on many websites, including http://theessayexperiencefall2013.qwriting.qc.cuny.edu/files/2013/09/Mother-Tongue-by-Amy-Tan.pdf.

**Woolf, Virginia. “Shakespeare’s Sister” from *A Room of One’s Own.*** In this 1929 essay, Woolf’s “message is simple: women must have some money and a room of their own in order to have the freedom to create” (Harcourt). In this chapter, Woolf wonders why, historically, there is little record of women’s lives or women writers. Examining the Elizabethan period, she “imagines that Shakespeare had a sister… equal…to Shakespeare, but whose legacy is radically different.” (Harcourt) This chapter is available on many websites, including a pdf. at l-adam-mekler.com/shakespeares-sister that provides helpful footnotes.(Nota bene: On the pdf., read to p. 8 , ending with “What’s the good of your writing?”)

**Skloot, Rebecca. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks.*** This is our all-high school summer read.

**Written Assignments: Due on the first day of school: Thursday, September 7th.**

1. **Personal Response:** Write a typed one- two page only personal response on *Frankenstein.* Use the first person (I observed, I disliked, etc…) in your response. Write about any aspect of the novel. (Subjects to consider: a character, a specific passage, a motif you noticed, surprises, contradictions, etc). Regardless of what you write about, the response must focus on specifics from the novel and include specific textual support demonstrating how the work resonated with you. Be sure to include the title, author, genre and a brief summary of the novel to begin your response.
2. **Short response:** After reading “Mother Tongue,” in a typed, one page response, respond to the following: What “Englishes” do you use? Consider how your use of language, either spoken or written, changes depending on the audience and circumstances. Describe two different ways you use language and the meaning of those differences using specific examples. Explain why each “English” is appropriate for each audience and purpose.

3. **Compose one specific discussion** for *Frankenstein* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. (These should be your original work.) Questions can address interpretations, character choices, confusions, etc. Include them on your written work.

**All written work must be typed, double-spaced, using font size 12. Submit a hard copy. It is best to complete the written assignments right after you finish your reading. Due: Thursday, September 7th.**

**Vocabulary:**
A strong vocabulary denotes a well-educated person and will enhance your writing, as well as lead to success on your SAT’s and AP exam. **Handwrite** each vocabulary word, part of speech, and its definition from the attached list in your vocabulary notebook. If you do not have one, please purchase a composition notebook for this purpose. **Review the words regularly.** Notebooks are checked in September and a vocabulary test will be scheduled for the first full week of school. In addition, circle and look up any words you do not know from the other readings.

Films, Sparknotes, No Fear Shakespeare, online notes and resources, etc. are unacceptable substitutes for reading the selections. Consulting any outside sources for written work will result in penalties, including earning no credit for the assignment. “We regret having to underscore this, but plagiarism is anathema. It is stealing. Don’t even consider it.” (Mrs. Skoog, Summer Reading 2015)

Begin your reading early so that you can read at a leisurely pace and truly enjoy each selection. Annotate or use post-it notes in your books to highlight aspects of the works that interest you, and keep notes on each work.

You will be tested on these works most likely during the second week of school. In addition, all written responses are evaluated.

**Happy reading!**
A.P. English Language: *Frankenstein* Vocabulary:

1. abhorrent: adj: inspiring disgust or loathing; repugnant
2. ardent- adj.: enthusiastic or passionate
3. commiserate- v.: express or feel sympathy; pity; sympathize
4. dauntless- adj.: fearless
5. diabolical-adj.: belonging to or so evil as to recall the Devil
6. docile- adj.: calm or relaxed
7. doppelganger- n.: a mirror image—an alter ego
8. emaciate- v.: to make weak or feeble
9. exhortation-n.: language intended to incite or encourage
10. harrowing-adj.: extremely disturbing or distressing
11. indefatigable-adj.: able to work or continue for a long time without becoming tired
12. inclemency-adj.: severity or harshness of weather
13. ignominious-adj.: shameful or public disgrace
14. immutable- adj.: not capable or susceptible to change
15. imperious- adj.: marked by arrogance or assurance; domineering
16. incredulous- adj.: unable to grasp or comprehend
17. indolence- n.: being lazy or slothful
18. portend- v.: to foreshadow; to indicate in advance
19. prognosticate-v.: foretell; foresee
20. progeny-n.: child or descendant in a family
21. purloined- v.: to take dishonestly; steal
22. repugnance- n.: strong distaste or aversion
23. succor (succor) n.: assistance in times of trouble
24. timorous- adj.: full of fear; timid
25. vacillating- adj.: wavering; indecisive; not resolute