



Naperville North High School

English Literature Summer Reading

Welcome to English Literature! Your summer assignment for this course will be to read and annotate the novel *Dracula* by Bram Stoker.

Because *Dracula* is in the public domain, you will find that it is widely available in reasonably-priced hardcopies or free electronic texts. To locate a copy for yourself, please consider the following options:

- Anderson's Bookshop (curbside pickup available, 630-355-2665)
- Online booksellers
- Apple Books (icon on iPhones)
- Kindle
- Google "Dracula full text"

There is no minimum or maximum for annotations; annotate in order to interact with the text meaningfully in preparation for summative work over the novel at the beginning of our semester. In regards to your annotations, here is some information:

Annotation is simply noting words on the page that strike you, phrases that confuse or thrill you, or places where you want to talk back to the speaker or [author]. Your goal is to record ideas and impressions for future analysis. Why bother to do this? Here's what scholar Mortimer Adler says in *How to Read a Book*:

Why is marking up a [text] indispensable to reading? First, it keeps you awake. (And I don't mean merely conscious; I mean awake.) In the second place, reading, if it is active, is thinking, and thinking tends to express itself in words, spoken or written. The marked [text] is usually the thought-through book. Finally, writing helps you remember the thought you had, or the thoughts the author expressed.

So whether you use sticky notes, highlight passages, or write comments directly in the margins, annotation helps you become a better reader. There are no hard-and-fast rules for annotating properly, but the aforementioned approach is a good way to get started. (NOTE: If you are unable to annotate on these documents, ***please do not worry!*** As an alternative, you may take notes in a notebook. If you choose to take notes in a notebook, we recommend that you include page numbers and direct quotations so that you may better recall and understand why you took them.)

Finally, as you read, **select a meaningful passage of one to two pages in length**; your passage should characterize an element of the novel (character, conflict, symbol, or other literary device) in a way that, to you, is revelatory of a societal fear. Essentially, you are considering the questions: *Of what is Stoker warning his readers? What seems to have terrified readers of his time?* You can consider everything from the various embodiments of evil to progress to gender to otherness - or something else entirely. Some of your work at the beginning of the semester will utilize your selected passage.

Make sure you bring your annotated text on the first day of class (or be sure it is accessible electronically).

If you have questions, please contact the Communication Arts department chair, Ms. Helena Hitzeman (hhitzeman@naperville203.org).