

Welcome to Pre-AP English II

During the summer I would like for you to read *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte. I have provided some topics of interest for you to consider as you read this work..

Some things that you should consider as you read are:

Jane is both the narrator and the protagonist of the novel. How do her character's experiences affect her voice as a narrator? To what extent is she a credible narrator, and to what extent are her perceptions biased?

Novels from this period in English literature were often meant to educate. What lesson(s) does Bronte attempt to teach about morality through Jane's character?

What can this novel tell us about the roles of women in Victorian English society?

The novel interrogates the concepts of social class and status in society. How does Jane's status allow her to navigate social situations? What difficulties does she have? How is her role as a servant different from other characters roles?

Jane Eyre is an example of a gothic novel. Explore the elements of a gothic novel, and explain how the novel fits into the gothic novel tradition.

Compare and contrast Bertha Mason and Jane Eyre. Why are the women treated so differently? What does Bertha represent?

After you finish reading, write a 500-700 word essay based on one of the questions listed above.

Your essay must have perfect grammar and be in MLA format. You should include at least 4 quotes (no longer than 15 words each) from the primary text to support your reasoning. Make sure that you introduce each quote with its context (what was happening at this point in the book? Who was there? Etc). Then, make sure to fully explain how the quote supports your argument. You should include a works cited page. Your paper should be well organized with an introduction and thesis statement, body paragraphs with topic sentences, concrete details, and commentary, and a conclusion.

After you write your essay, you will need to submit it to [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com). Your course is Pre-AP English II-1, and your enrollment key is Shakespeare.

Good luck! I hope you enjoy the reading, and I look forward to meeting you all in August!

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