

## Summer Reading

### English 4 Honors

Please read the following before the start of the school year. You will be tested on both during the first week of the school year.

*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

*In the Wake of the Plague* by Norman F. Cantor

We will be making connections to these writings throughout the year.

### Books needed for the course:

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* translated by Burton Raffel (1<sup>st</sup> semester)

*Macbeth* by William Shakespeare (1<sup>st</sup> semester)

*Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley (2<sup>nd</sup> semester)

*Dracula* by Bram Stoker (2<sup>nd</sup> semester)

### Assignments

*Frankenstein*: As you read consider Shelley's theme of mankind's thirst for scientific knowledge going too far and note where it can be found in the story. Also consider the theme of personal responsibility and note examples from the text. We will also be discussing the frame structure of the novel and how it contributes to the text. This book was written in England and published in 1818. Please look up and make notes about the state of medicine and science in general at this time. What were the beliefs? You should also look for biographical info about Mary Shelley. She is a fascinating and tragic figure in British literature.

*In the Wake of the Plague*: As you read make notes on how the progression of the bubonic plague changed Western European society. We are going to be looking into the history of the plague in great detail. Make sure that you understand how the plague changed educational philosophy, and society's views on religion and governments.

**Please have your notebook on the first day of school, as it will be checked that day.**

\*\*\*\*The test on *Frankenstein* will be Thursday, 8/11, and the test on *In the Wake of the Plague* will be Friday, 8/12.