

# FRANKENSTEIN

## Critical Theory Project English IV Honors

**Literary (Critical) Theory:** the ideas and concepts which we apply to literature.

**Literary Criticism:** the act of using a theory to interpret any given piece of literature. The different schools of literary criticism provide us with lenses which ultimately reveal important aspects of the literary work.

### Goal:

The goal of this unit is to give you the opportunity to delve a little deeper into the art of literary criticism by exploring, in depth, one literary theory and then applying that theory to *Frankenstein*. Though you will collaborate with others who are exploring the same theory as you, your grade will be entirely determined by your own efforts within this workshop.

Please note that none of the theories we will study (or really any literary theory) are without flaws. While you will be teaching your theory and conducting a discussion on your theory, you will also be a student of the other theories. Therefore, the ultimate goal is that you leave this unit with pieces of each theory that you can apply to literature in the future.

### Process:

#### 1. Pick a theory.

There are four theories from which you may choose. However, in order to maintain balance in our workshop, there will be a limited number of seats for each theory (first come-first served).

**Psychoanalytic    ▪    Feminist    ▪    Postcolonial    ▪    Ecocriticism**

#### 2. Learn your theory.

You will have two class days to collaborate with other scholars who are studying the same theory. I will provide you with an overview of your theory, a children's book or fairy tale to which you can apply that theory, and an article in which a literary critic applies that theory to *Frankenstein*.

You will then have two class days to (1) prepare to teach your theory to a small group of your classmates and (2) prepare meaningful discussion questions for a class discussion applying your theory to *Frankenstein*.

Your prep work will be counted as part of your final grade for the project.

### **3. Teach your theory.**

You should use the materials provided to you to help you teach the theory to your classmates. However, you should also select/create your own materials to help you teach the theory.

Though you may refer to *Frankenstein*, the teaching day should not be solely focused on *Frankenstein*. Instead, you should focus on teaching your classmates about the theory and how to apply it. You should use the children's book/fairy tale provided by your teacher to show your classmates how to apply the theory to a text for the purposes of literary criticism.

Any materials you plan to hand out during the teaching day should be sent to me **at least one day prior** to the day you are scheduled to teach the theory so that I can review your plan and make the appropriate number of copies.

### **4. Moderate a class discussion applying your theory to *Frankenstein*.**

The final days of this project will be spent in a Socratic Seminar. Your group moderate a portion of the Socratic Seminar.

Your primary task in the Socratic Seminar will be to pose meaningful questions, follow-up questions, and help guide the discussion as the group applies your theory to *Frankenstein*. It is imperative that your questions are meaningful, thought-provoking, and open-ended. Simple questions that can be answered with a "yes" or "no," or questions that lead only to one "right" answer are not appropriate for this discussion.

You should be prepared to include specific excerpts from *Frankenstein* as well as any outside sources you think will help generate meaningful discussion.

Each scholar in the group will have a section of the discussion to moderate. When you are not directly moderating the discussion, you should be contributing to the class discussion.

### **5. Participate in your classmates' learning units and discussions.**

You are expected to participate enthusiastically as your classmates teach their theories and moderate their discussions. This will be a part of your grade.

### **6. Extra Credit.**

It can be difficult to fit complex discussions into one class period. Join the discussion board on Schoology to add extra credit points to your AA grade. There will be one discussion board for each critical theory.

## Critical Theory Project

### Grading Rubric

Not Yet (0-6)	Proficient (7-8)	Exemplary (9-10)
	<b>Preparation x2</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Worked collaboratively with others who studied the same critical theory</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prepared to teach the theory on assigned teaching day</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prepared to moderate discussion on discussion day</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All prep material complete; if copies were needed, the student provided those or sent them to the teacher one day prior to class</li> </ul>	
	<b>Teaching the Theory x3</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Meaningful, creative activity planned for the class period</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Knowledgeable about the theory and able to answer questions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Keep classmates engaged in learning and practicing the theory</li> </ul>	
	<b>Moderating the Discussion x3</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Questions are meaningful and thought-provoking</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Provide meaningful follow-up questions to keep the discussion alive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Discussion shows that you have an understanding of the nuances of <i>Frankenstein</i> (beyond the surface or plot-level gained from reading online notes)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> When not directly moderating, you continue to contribute to the discussion</li> </ul>	
	<b>Participation x2</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Actively working (not off task) each class day</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Engaged in learning the various critical theories</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Engaged in the discussion (at least 3 meaningful contributions)</li> </ul>	
	<b>Extra Credit</b>	
0 points <input type="checkbox"/> Did not participate in the online discussion.	5 points <input type="checkbox"/> Post a question and a response to another student's question <u>AND</u> reply to another student on <u>ONE</u> of the discussion boards	10 points <input type="checkbox"/> Posts a question <u>AND</u> a response <u>AND</u> reply to another student's response on at least <u>TWO</u> of the discussion boards