English II Honors
Summer Reading Assignment 2017-2018

Required Texts:
- Gothic literature handouts (handouts available in the pdf version of the summer assignment located on the Agoura High School website)
- *Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen
- *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë

You will complete the following over summer:
1. careful reading of all assigned texts
2. a quote log for each novel (due on the first day of instruction)

You will complete the following once class is in session:
- an objective test on each novel (test dates will be assigned on the first day of instruction)
- a Socratic seminar (seminar dates will be assigned on the first day of instruction)
- an essay (essay dates will be assigned in class)

Quote Log Requirements
The purpose of your quote gathering is to ensure your active engagement with the texts, to facilitate class discussion, and to use as supporting evidence in an in-class essay.

As you read, use Post-it notes to bookmark as many quotes as you can find for character, theme, and genre (see below). Do not analyze quotes. When you complete your novels, create quote logs by hand-writing all quotes on college-ruled, lined paper. Provide one quote log per novel (label according to novel). Each quote log should be categorically formatted. First, label and list 8 of your strongest character quotes, and number them 1-8. Then, label and list 8 of your strongest theme quotes, and number them 1-8. Finally, label and list 4 of your strongest genre quotes, and label them 1-4.

- Character (8 quotes per novel)
  o Look for passages that suggest the main character’s motivations and development.

- Theme (8 quotes per novel)
  o Look for passages that reveal the authors’ insights on the human condition. Consider the following topics:
    ▪ family dynamics (roles/conflict/connection)
    ▪ social dynamics (insiders/outsiders, community, distribution of power)
    ▪ gender roles (compliance with or defiance of/impact on identity formation)

- Elements of Gothic Literature (4 quotes per novel)
  o Look for passages that reference elements of gothic style.
Gothic literature combines elements of horror and romance. Horace Walpole, author of the first gothic novel, *The Castle of Otranto* (1764), is generally considered the “father” of gothic literature.

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<tr>
<th><strong>The Artist</strong></th>
<th>Concept of the Artist as the ultimate outsider, often haunted by his own creation</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The Outsider</strong></td>
<td>A preoccupation with the outsider, whether the outsider is a stationary figure who tries to hide his difference, or a wandering figure who seeks some kind of salvation – can also be an individual who for whatever reason moves outside of traditional “norms”</td>
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<td><strong>The Sublime</strong></td>
<td>A landscape that stimulates spiritual awareness, especially a landscape subject to nature’s volubility - landscapes are alienating, desolate, isolated, full of menace – mountains are often associated with the sublime, because they make your eye go up</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Decay &amp; Ruin</strong></td>
<td>Architectural ruins, moral ruin, physical ruin, hereditary ruin, emotional ruin, ethical ruin, process of decay – reminder of the futility of human achievement</td>
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<td><strong>Excess</strong></td>
<td>Lots of excess emotion, spectacle, &quot;over-the-top&quot; elements</td>
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<td><strong>Fairy Tale Elements</strong></td>
<td>Includes things (rather than people) that rise up and acquire power over people who gradually lose or give up control over themselves</td>
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<td><strong>Fragmentation</strong></td>
<td>Tortuous, fragmented, incomplete narratives relating mysterious incidents, horrible images, &amp; life-threatening pursuits – fear of imprisonment, entrapment, rape, personal violation, triumph of evil over good &amp; chaos over order</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Inversion</strong></th>
<th>Inversion, or turning &quot;upside down&quot; of &quot;normal&quot; circumstances (the swooning hero – the strong woman) – inversion of perceived “normal” relationships</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Melancholy</strong></td>
<td>A result of dwelling on the futility of human achievement</td>
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<td><strong>Power</strong></td>
<td>Man’s power over nature – nature’s power over man – power of the supernatural – also includes themes of dominance &amp; submission</td>
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<td><strong>Sensibility Shirt</strong></td>
<td>Textual focus on the to the villain whose capacity for feeling is dormant, perverted, or depleted rather than on the often passive, self-regarding hero</td>
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<td><strong>Sexual Fantasy</strong></td>
<td>Primarily masculine, wherein a dominating &amp; insensitive male villain holds a helpless, innocent, &amp; fearful virgin captive</td>
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<td><strong>Supernatural Elements</strong></td>
<td>Specters, monsters, demons, corpses, bleeding ghosts, skeletons, evil aristocrats, monks &amp; nuns, bandits, fainting heroines, mad scientists, fathers, husbands, madmen, criminals, &amp; the monstrous double – embody themes such as false inheritance, blood guilt, retribution, mistaken identity and incest</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Theatricality</strong></td>
<td>Shocks, emotional thrills, manipulation of characters, mechanistic plots</td>
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<td><strong>Transgression</strong></td>
<td>Particularly idea of sexual transgression</td>
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Elements of Gothic Literature

Setting & Atmosphere
There are old, rundown structures, especially castles or great country manors that are declining from former greatness. Other features:
- Hidden passages
- Trap doors
- Winding stairs
- Dungeons or secret rooms

There are bleak, foreboding environments.
- Dark, dense forests
- Imposing mountains
- Foggy moors
- Gloomy, stormy weather
- Areas far away from civilization

The atmosphere is one of suspense, mystery, horror, or dread.

Protagonist
The protagonists of Gothic literature are isolated or alone. This isolation can be self-imposed or a result of circumstances beyond her control.
- Physical isolation (trapped in a house far from civilization)
- Emotional isolation (cut off from the people around her)

The plot tends to involve hidden secrets which threaten the protagonist.

Female Protagonists
- Persecuted maidens
- Fainting spells
- Ailing health

Male Protagonists
- Byronic hero
- Troubled past
- Dark attributes

Emotions
Emotions run high for both male and female characters.

- Characters are often passionate and strong-willed, defying others or even their own common sense in pursuit of their goals.

- Women are often curious and have a tendency to swoon, while men storm and rage in reflection of unseen inner torments.
- The events emphasize high emotion and often reflect a heightened sense of drama.
• Examples include murders, kidappings, people going mad and tragic illnesses.

**Damsels In Distress**

• The "damsel in distress" motif appears quite often in Gothic literature, with women threatened by tyrannical men or just the circumstances in which they find themselves.

• They often appear frightened and may suffer from some kind of ailment.

**Foreboding**

• Ominous implications precede dark events in Gothic literature.

• Unlucky omens appear, ancient curses linger in the air, and dark forces beyond the protagonist’s control thwart his ambitions.

**Decay**

• The overall impression of a Gothic world is one of decay: a formerly great family, community, country or individual who has peaked and now begins a slow process of decline.

• This appears both in the landscape (crumbling buildings) and in the characters themselves.

**The Supernatural**

• The supernatural often appears in Gothic literature, particularly ghosts and unexplained manifestations.

• In some Gothic novels, elements ultimately have a rational explanation, but the implication always suggest something not of this world. Other such beings may include apparitions, monsters, demons, and vampires.

• Characters’ dreams bleed into reality or death-like states.