

**Gifted English II**  
**Summer Reading Assignments**  
**New Albany High School**

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**TEXTS:**        *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley  
                  *Cold Sassy Tree* by Olive Ann Burns

**FORMATTING:**

File name should include both your first and last name.

Each assignment should have a heading beginning on the first line of the top left-hand corner of the document. The heading should include the student's name, the name of the text (underlined), and the assignment number.

**GRADE VALUE:**

Each assignment counts as a 100-point major grade. They are due the second day of school; your grade will drop a letter grade for each day the assignment is late.

Also, a test will be given on these novels in the first weeks of school. Students will need to bring the books to class during the first weeks of school.

Students should thoroughly read both of the books, not just one of the many summaries that are widely available.

Students should do their own work on the summer assignments. Copying the work of other students or material that is available on the internet is considered plagiarism and will result in a grade of zero.

Students may discuss the novel with classmates, but should not work in groups to complete assignments. For videos, students may use other students, family, or friends as participants, but not as collaborators in the planning or production. One purpose of the summer assignments is for the teacher to get a sense of each student's personal voice and writing style.

Students should use their best organizational and writing skills and proofread carefully for grammatical errors. Be sure to follow all instructions.

## Assignments for *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley:

1. **(50 points)** Both Victor Frankenstein and the Creature exhibit good and bad qualities. They both have “dark sides” and they both demonstrate good characteristics, making them doppelgangers. Additionally, they are doppelgangers of each other, exhibiting opposite characteristics at different points in the novel.

Your assignment is to **create visual representations** of Victor Frankenstein and the Creature which represent the opposing characteristics that exist within each character. Your representations should show the “dark double” or doppelganger of each character. You will create **two separate physical representations**, one for Victor Frankenstein and one for the Creature. Your physical representations may be created using craft materials or virtual design tools. Be creative.

You must support your images/representations **with evidence from the novel**, using at least **10 quotes from the novel for each character** (five quotes representing good characteristics and five quotes representing bad characteristics). You must include the **page number** where each quote can be found **and an explanation** of how the quote represents the good or bad quality you have depicted. **The quotations and explanations must be included on the project or attached to the physical project.** Clearly indicate which physical image or attribute in your project represents each quote. (See attached rubric)

**Possible themes:** You may choose one of the following themes or come up with one on your own. You may use one theme for Victor Frankenstein and another for the Creature.

- “Dark Double” –Depict each character as two separate entities, one who is dark and sinister and one who is light and good.
- “Shadow Self” – Depict each character and his shadow. The character depictions should demonstrate the “good” characteristics, and the shadow should represent the “bad” characteristics.
- “Monster Within” – Depict each character with a “monster” inside him to show the good and bad characteristics.
- “Split Personality” – Depict each character as half good and half evil.

2. **(50 points)** Frankenstein is considered to be a part of the literary genre known as Gothic. Go to <http://academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/english/melani/gothic/gothic.html> and pay attention to the elements of Gothic literature.

A. Find at least one quote or passage that illustrates each of the **twelve characteristics** listed on this page. On your paper, write the characteristic and the quote/passage, being sure to include the page number.

B. Choose the **three** Gothic characteristics from #2 that you think are most exemplified in the novel. Write a **five paragraph essay** in which you explain your choices. You should include an introduction with a thesis statement, three body paragraphs that contain clear, concise statements, and a conclusion. Use the quotes you selected for question 2 to support your claims. Incorporate quotes into your writing and use in-text citations to indicate the page number of the quoted material. (See sample below.)

### **Sample paragraph using incorporated quotes and in-text citations:**

In *Cold Sassy Tree*, author Olive Ann Burns utilizes imagery to engage the reader in the adventures of Will Tweedy, the novel’s protagonist. At one point, Will becomes trapped on a train trestle when a train comes. Burns’ use of sensory detail allows the reader to experience the intensity of the moment as Will feels “train heat almost at [his] heels” and becomes “swallowed up in fire and thunder” (77). The reader can smell the “heated creosote” and feel the “hot cinders...from the firebox” as the train travels over Will ( Burns 77). Additionally...

**Assignments for *Cold Sassy Tree* by Olive Ann Burns:**

1. **(50 points)** Character development is essential to this novel. The reader begins to understand the different inhabitants of Cold Sassy through Will's omniscient knowledge of them. In fact, Will is often privy to private information about the characters that no one else knows. Trace these "secrets" that Will learns about different townspeople and /or family members.

A. Document at least five such secrets. Write the passage containing the secret and cite the page number.

B. Explain the passages in one full paragraph each. Each paragraph should include an explanation of how the secret indirectly characterizes the individual who holds it.

2. **(50 points)** Choose **ONE** of the following options:

**OPTION 1:**

Create a news segment **or** newspaper article reporting **ONE** of the following events from *Cold Sassy Tree* by Olive Ann Burns.

- Will Tweedy's encounter on the train trestle
- The arrival of the automobile in Cold Sassy, Georgia
- Grandpa Tweedy's "fun"-eral

The news piece must be accurate to the text (historical context, details from the novel, etc.) and should include eyewitness interviews.

Video – 3-5 minutes

Newspaper article – 500-750 words

**OR**

**OPTION 2:**

Create a commercial or print advertisement for Blakeslee Automobiles. Use the details from the text, including the promotions and related products used in the novel. The advertisement must be accurate to the text (historical context, details from the novel, etc.) and should be both persuasive and informative.

Commercial video - 2-3 minutes

Print advertisement - include both text (250-400 words) and images

**Frankenstein Doppelganger Project**  
**RUBRIC for Victor Frankenstein (25 points)**

CRITERIA	SCORE	COMMENTS
Visual image of character is creative and represents extensive thought and effort; Presentation demonstrates understanding of doppelganger	1 2 3 4 5	
Visual image of character accurately demonstrates good qualities	1 2 3 4 5	
Textual evidence accurately supports good qualities of character and represents study and thought; page numbers are included and explanations are clear	1 2 3 4 5	
Visual image of character accurately demonstrates dark qualities	1 2 3 4 5	
Textual evidence supports dark qualities of character and represents study and thought; page numbers are included and explanations are clear	1 2 3 4 5	

**Frankenstein Doppelganger Project**  
**RUBRIC for the Creature (25 points)**

CRITERIA	SCORE	COMMENTS
Visual image of character is creative and represents extensive thought and effort; presentation demonstrates understanding of doppelganger	1 2 3 4 5	
Visual image of character accurately demonstrates good qualities	1 2 3 4 5	
Textual evidence accurately supports good qualities of character and represents study and thought; page numbers are included and explanations are clear	1 2 3 4 5	
Visual image of character accurately demonstrates dark qualities	1 2 3 4 5	
Textual evidence supports dark qualities of character and represents study and thought; page numbers are included and explanations are clear	1 2 3 4 5	