



Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School

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Welcome to Honors English II. Because this is an advanced class, we ask students to read a few select short texts over the summer to help prepare for the fall semester.

The texts mostly concern Gothic literature: the first piece is about annotation, the second is an overview of the Gothic genre, the second and third are short stories.

Students should:

- Print out the texts (or come see Mr. Scheip in E207 for copies)
- Annotate the texts as they read
- Take notes after reading each piece

Students should anticipate assessments on the reading in the first week of school, so they should read each of the pieces before they show up on day one. Each piece is short enough to read in one sitting. While the pieces are short, we do not recommend reading them all the day before the semester begins.

The stories are **Gothic**, meaning they are creepy, unsettling, and perhaps disturbing; however, they are also well written, enlightening, and culturally significant:

1. “How to Annotate a Fictional Text”
2. “Elements of the Gothic Novel” – Robert Harris
3. “Fall of the House of Usher” – Edgar Allen Poe
 - Consider how setting (weather, house, terrain) functions as a character
 - What type of relationship do Roderick and Madeline have?
 - What role does art play within the story?
 - Is this a supernatural story or can it be explained rationally?
4. “The Yellow Wall-paper” – Charlotte Perkins Gilman
 - Consider how setting (weather, house, terrain) functions as a character
 - What commentary does this story provide on women's roles of the late 1800s?
 - What role does writing play within the story?
 - Is this a supernatural story or can it be explained rationally?