
The Summer Reading program, sponsored by the English Department at Padua Franciscan High School, is designed to entice students to read and recognize notable contemporary literature. We wish to engage student interest, encourage critical thinking, and challenge our students as readers. As such, some titles on the list may contain sensitive material and deal with more mature themes than some students may have encountered previously. The target audience of all the selected literature is young adults; moreover, the title selections for the Honors English courses are chosen in accordance with the AP program. Students are encouraged to find more information about all of the novels through the local library or through amazon.com. Additionally, the English Department strongly encourages students and parents/guardians to discuss the content, themes, and overall inherent literary value of the selected novels.

AP English Summer Reading 2019

Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*

Directions

1. Buy your own print copy of this book and clearly mark your name in it. You're going to be writing in your book and turning it in to me to examine in the fall. Digital or library copies make this impossible.
2. Read the novel carefully (if there's an introduction or afterward for *Brave New World*, it's up to you). As you read, you must:
 - A). annotate obsessively (difficult passages, summaries of key paragraphs, meanings of strange words, details that relate to the other book/other passages in the same book, crucial plot events, personal reactions, etc.). I'm going to check in the fall to see how well you did so.
 - B). take thorough handwritten notes (I don't allow Chromebook notes in class, so you'd better get in the habit now). You'll need these notes in August.
3. Read and understand for yourself. Do not share ideas and reactions with other students, and don't consult online crutches (i.e. Spark Notes, Cliffs Notes, etc.). Both of those lead to lazy thinking, frequently inaccurate information, vapid and predictable responses, and will be considered academic dishonesty by me. You wouldn't be here now if you weren't good readers, so read good. If you have to wrestle with the text a bit, that's wonderful: that means you're doing something worthwhile.
4. Learn enough about the following concepts to be able to say something accurate and intelligent on command:
 - British Modernism
 - Consumerism
 - Dystopia
5. In addition to being prepared for the kind of questions you'd expect on a good old-fashioned objective test (if you don't know character names, plot details, and the like, you're not helping us), prepare yourselves to answer a one-question in-class essay prompt that'll count as a test grade. The test will ask you to respond with a strong thesis statement, which you'll defend with robust quoted textual evidence. I'll even let you use your (by that time) heavily-annotated books. So what's the question? Nobody knows, but you'll be in great shape if you prepare for questions such as these....
 - In the novel, is the pursuit of pleasure good or bad? Is pain actually *good* somehow?
 - How is our decision-making process affected by pressures and influences from those around us?
 - Speaking of people around us, how much should we care about all those other people that make up society? Can we care too little? Can we care about the collective too *much*?
 - In Huxley, what are the specific mechanisms (and there are a lot of 'em) the World State uses to subjugate the people? Are any of these things creepily similar to what our world's like today?
 - What makes key characters tick? For example, what, exactly, is John's deal? What's he so conflicted about? To what extent are Bernard, Helmholtz, and Lenina like John? Does Linda actually love John? Does John actually love Lenina?

Do well on this, you'll start the year in great shape. Do this half-heartedly, and you'll start the year in a smoldering crater that will take great effort to climb out of.

See you in August.