

Welcome to English 4AP with Ms. Webber & Mrs. Sagendorf
Summer Reading Directions

- You are **required** to read 3 novels for English 4AP:
 - *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley
 - *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
 - **ONE** book from the following list:
 - *Beloved* by T. Morrison
 - *The Things They Carried* by T. O'Brien
 - *Station Eleven* by E. St. John Mandel

- Please purchase print or digital copies of *Brave New World* and *The Kite Runner* as we will be using these texts in class in September.

- *Assignment #1*: For *Brave New World* and *The Kite Runner*, please annotate both texts and complete the attached essay questions below. **Annotation is crucial to your understanding of the text, and will help guide us in our discussions at the beginning of the year.*
 - *Brave New World*
 - Choose **two** of the following themes and discuss their development using quotes from the text. (Include chapter or page number.)
 - **Each** theme should be discussed in 2-3 paragraphs.
 - The Incompatibility of Happiness & Truth
 - The Dangers of an All-Powerful State
 - Consumer Society
 - Use of Technology to Control Society

 - Next, choose **two** of the following questions to answer. Discuss in 2-3 paragraphs using examples from the text. (Include chapter or page number)
 - Compare Bernard and Helmholtz Watson. How are they similar? How are they foils of each other?

 - What are the contradictions in Lenina's character? How does Huxley use her to undermine the idea that the World State is perfect?

 - Think about John's actions at the end of the novel. Do you consider him to be a hero? Should *Brave New World* be considered a tragedy? Why/why not?

 - What are 2 specific aspects of modern society that Huxley criticizes? Include an example of rhetorical strategy (ex. Irony, Satire, Hyperbole, Allusion etc..) that Huxley uses to advance his argument.

 - Explain how Huxley takes *positive* social values like happiness, stability, and identity and distorts them in the World State.

- Look out for these **motifs** (recurring images, words, ideas) within *Brave New World* and be ready to discuss their significance when we return to class in September. (You do not have to write out essays for these. Just annotate the text, and be ready to discuss them in September.)
 - Shakespeare
 - Ford
 - Alienation
 - Soma
- *The Kite Runner* – Choose **two** of the following to answer.
 - In great literature, no scene of violence exists for its own sake. Explain how a violent scene in *The Kite Runner* contributes to the meaning of the complete work.
 - Leo Tolstoy once wrote, “All happy families are like one another; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.” Explain the source of the unhappiness in one of the families in *The Kite Runner*, and the uniqueness of its misery.
 - How do Amir and Hassan represent the divisions in Afghan society, and how do these divisions affect the courses their lives take?
 - Examine the concept of circularity in the novel. What important cycles exist in the characters' lives and histories? How is circularity connected to redemption?
- The essay questions will be turned in on the first day of class.

Assignment #2: For the book of choice (*Beloved*, *The Things They Carried* OR *Station Eleven*), you are to make up 5 questions suitable for class discussion. You do not have to answer the questions. You will do that orally in September. We will collect the written questions on the first day of class. You do not have to purchase this book.

Do **NOT** use outside sources such as SparkNotes, Schmoops, or the Gale Reference Library, etc. in completing this exercise. If you do so, you are defeating the purpose of this assignment, which is to teach you how to read closely and analyze literary texts independently.

Enjoy your summer! We look forward to working with you next year.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at:

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