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June 2020

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well during these unprecedented times. We thank you for your partnership during our distance learning. In order to instill a love of reading in our students, we need to encourage our students to read all year long, and summer is an important time for them to read for enjoyment. Reading can fill your adolescent's days with the love of stories and the fascination of factual reading. Therefore, this summer we will offer Shelton's Summer Reading Program.

Students entering Grade 12 will be reading Ayn Rand's *Anthem*. Please see the attached letter and assignment from senior English teachers with a digital link to the text and additional information. Students will be taking notes on two questions in preparation for a discussion during the first week of school. **The notes and active participation will average together for a quiz grade.** While students in grade 12 must read the selected mandatory text, they also are encouraged to read additional texts of their choice.

The success of this program depends heavily upon your support as parents and guardians. Our shared commitment will help your students to become critical readers and thinkers while developing a life-long love of reading.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Victoria White".

Victoria White
Supervisor of Teaching & Learning- Humanities

June 2, 2020

Dear Student:

As a prospective 12th grade student, **you are required to:**

read *Anthem* by Ayn Rand as one of this year's summer reading selections. (You can access the pdf using the following link);

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1250/1250-h/1250-h.htm>

take notes as you read;

prepare **written outlines/notes** for **two** of the discussion questions found on the next page. **Each outline/set of notes** should include at least **five** specific quotes to support your ideas;

complete a literary discussion based on the work upon your return to school using your notes--this discussion, in conjunction with your notes, will count as a quiz grade.

Specifically, *Anthem* is an engaging story of one man's fight against a totalitarian government. As you read, you will easily make connections between the novel and modern day society. In many ways, Ms. Rand's work is as relevant now as it was in 1937 when it was first published.

Please read the work carefully. *Anthem* will not only serve as summer reading material but also as a reference point in several of our units throughout the year.

Enjoy your summer,

The 12th Grade English Teachers

(Please see discussion questions on the next page.)

Anthem Discussion Questions--2020

1. Please read the following quote carefully and **relate it to one of the characters in *Anthem***. **Identify the character's specific dream and assess how and why the character is a "dreamer by night" or "a dreamer of the day."** Be sure to find specific quotes for your discussion.

"All men dream, but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds, wake in the day to find it was vanity: but the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act on their dreams with open eyes to make them possible." T.E. Lawrence

2. Names in Ayn Rand's novella *Anthem* are extremely important to character and thematic development. Please choose **one** character and **analyze the importance of his/her evolving names** as they relate to the character's growth and the central message of the work. Be sure to find **specific details** from the novella for your discussion.

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." William Shakespeare

3. Please **analyze the following quote literally and symbolically** noting how Ayn Rand uses **"light" in many forms** in the novella **to develop Equality 7-2521's character and to create her novel's central message**. Be sure to find specific quotes for your discussion.

"Let the light be your guide."

4. The issue of equality was at the heart of Jefferson's writing in "The Declaration of Independence" and remains, for many, the most desired trait of being a United States' citizen, even today. Ayn Rand explores the idea of equality, and how it is acquired, as a newfound resident of the United States after escaping from the Soviet Union. After reading *Anthem* carefully, **please analyze the following quote in light of *Anthem's* characters and how the novella reveals Rand's central message about equality**. Be sure to find specific quotes for your discussion.

"Democracy and socialism have nothing in common but one word, equality. But notice the difference: while democracy seeks equality in liberty, socialism seeks equality in restraint and servitude." Alexis de Tocqueville