New Rochelle High School
11 Honors English Summer Assignment

Part ONE:
Read the following book and complete the accompanying task.

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

- Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television “family.” But when he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn’t live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known. (Published: 1953)

Task:
- While you read, develop a set of jots (multi-color post-it notes) that captures your thinking about each of the following topics. You will need your jots for our September book discussions AND your first writing assignment about Fahrenheit 451. For each topic, post at least six comments through the book. I recommend color-coding the jots for easy reference.
  - Control - To what extent do the people in the story want to control their lives? To what extent do they want to pass on control to others?
  - Privacy - Is privacy something that can be guaranteed or is it a social agreement that serves as a metaphoric curtain behind which we kindly ask others not to look?
  - Knowledge and literacy - Given Granger and his group, does the disappearance of books correspond to a loss of knowledge? Is written knowledge significantly different from oral knowledge?
  - Technology - Does Ray Bradbury present technology as a neutral force in the story or does he associate it with positive or negative outcomes?
  - Montag - How does Bradbury direct the reader to think about Montag? Is he a model of action in a dysfunctional world? A corrupted soul who can never be redeemed? Something else?
  - From the given list, choose ONE additional character to track through the novel: Mildred, Clarisse, Captain Beatty, Faber. How has Bradbury led you to understand the character and his/her role
Part TWO:

Read at least one of the following books and complete the accompanying tasks.  PLEASE NOTE: The books listed here are serious books that explore serious, contemporary issues. As a result, there is language and in some cases imagery, that while not gratuitous does require a mature attitude. Students/parents looking to avoid exposure to mature subject matter are asked to read N. Scott Momaday’s The Way to Rainy Mountain.

There There by Tommy Orange
• Tommy Orange’s shattering novel follows twelve characters from Native communities: all traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow, all connected to each other in ways they may not yet realize. There is Jacque Red Feather, newly sober and working to make it back to the family she left behind. Dene Oxendene, who is pulling his life back together after his uncle’s death, has come to work at the powwow to honor his memory. Fourteen-year-old Orvil has come to perform traditional dance for the very first time. Together, this chorus of voices tells of the plight of the urban Native American—grappling with a complex and painful history, with an inheritance of beauty and spirituality, with communion and sacrifice and heroism. (Published: 2018)

Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann
• In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Nation in Oklahoma. After oil was discovered beneath their land, the Osage rode in chauffeured automobiles, built mansions, and sent their children to study in Europe. Then, one by one, the Osage began to be killed off. As the death toll rose, the newly created FBI took up the case, and the young director, J. Edgar Hoover, turned to a former Texas Ranger named Tom White to try to unravel the mystery. White put together an undercover team, including a Native American agent who infiltrated the region, and together with the Osage began to expose one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history. (Published: 2017)

Tracks by Louise Erdrich
• Set in North Dakota in the early 1900s, Tracks is one of Louise Erdrich's best works. The narrative voice alternates between Nanapush, a wise old man of the Chippewa tribe, and Pauline, who abandons her Indian heritage in an obsessive conversion to Christianity. Both tell the story of Fleur Pillager, a magnificent woman who is rumored to be a witch, and whose life mirrors both the conflicts within the Indian community banded together in the face of an encroaching white world, and the eventual supremacy of that world over their culture. (Published: 1988)

Barkskins by Annie Proulx
• Barkskins is a 2016 novel by American writer Annie Proulx. It tells the story of two immigrants to New France, René Sel and Charles Duquet, and of their descendants. It spans over 300 years and witnesses the deforestation of the New World from the arrival of Europeans into the contemporary era of global warming. (Published: 2016)

Heart Berries by Terese Marie Mailhot
• Heart Berries is a powerful, poetic memoir of a woman's coming of age on the Seabird Island Indian Reservation in the Pacific Northwest. Having survived a profoundly dysfunctional upbringing only to find herself hospitalized and facing a dual diagnosis of post traumatic stress disorder and bipolar II disorder; Terese Marie Mailhot is given a notebook and begins to write her way out of trauma. (Published: 2018)

The Way to Rainy Mountain by N. Scott Momaday
• In The Way to Rainy Mountain, Momaday traces his ancestral roots back to the beginning of the Kiowa tribe. While Momaday seems to have always known about his ancestry, the death of his grandmother prompts a deeper and more personal exploration of his family background. In order to get as close as possible to his roots, Momaday returns to his Grandmother's house where the spirit of the Kiowa tribe is very strong. (Published: 1976)
Tasks:

● What is the genre of the book? How does it compare with other books you know that are in the same genre? Has the author adhered strictly to the expectations of the genre? Your thoughtful answer of 150-250 words should demonstrate your ability to support claims with specific evidence.

● What are three significant additional intentional writing choices (other than the question of genre) that the author has made? For each of the choices, locate a point within the book that demonstrates the impact of the choice. Writing a paragraph for each choice, introduce the situation in clear, concise, and informative sentences; transition smoothly to a key detail from the situation that warrants quoting; and conclude with an analysis of one to two sentences. The writing you submit for this should demonstrate your ability to recognize craft in someone else’s writing, contextualize information, transition smoothly between your commentary and the text you quote - NO QUOTE DROPS!!! - and analyze the way specific writing strategies serve an author’s purpose.

● How has the author organized the book? Identify the major sections and their areas of focus. What is the larger whole that the sections create? Your answer to these questions should be 150-250 words long and should highlight your understanding of the relationship between the smaller parts and the larger whole as well as confirm your recognition of the role order plays in creating coherence.

● Continuing with the idea of “part to whole,” what is the larger whole that the author is interested in contributing to? To what extent is this larger whole particularly relevant to Native Americans? From what angle does this author present his/her ideas? Your answer of 150-250 words should showcase your skill in commenting on point of view, subject and theme.

NOTE: Integrity and independent thinking are foundational to the 11 Honors course. If you conduct yourself with a sincere sense of self-respect, there should be no problem. However, you should also know that plagiarism and related unethical choices have NO place in the course and will be dealt with severely. Possible consequences for infractions include but are not limited to a zero for the assignment, failure for the quarter, and removal from the honors program.

Part Three:

For those with avid reading habits, consider adding the following texts to your bedside book pile. Through the course of the year, we will make repeated reference to these three books, so anything you can do to increase your familiarity with these three phenomenal books will be to your benefit. And yes, there are film renditions of these, but the original books provide a much richer experience.

- The Odyssey
- David Copperfield
- Don Quixote