

English 10: American Literature
Mr. Fitzgerald
Summer Reading Assignment

Included here are assignments for 3 books: *Feed*, *Of Mice and Men*, and *How to Win Friends and Influence People*.

- All parts of this assignment should be typed (12-point font, Times New Roman)
- Be sure to have a heading that indicates which book your answers are referring to
- Be sure to number your answers to make it clear which question you are answering.
- All assignments must be submitted in print form and in digital form.
- Print copies should be stapled prior to submission. Points will be deducted from print copies that are not stapled prior to submission. All three assignments (for each of the three books) should be stapled together to be submitted as a whole. Do **NOT** submit the assignments separately.
- Digital copies should be submitted as a singled document. Do **NOT** submit the assignments as separate files.
- Digital copies should be submitted via email to rfitzgerald@saintvincentferrer.com
- Digital copies should be submitted as **ATTACHMENTS** in the format of either Word - Documents or PDF files. **DO NOT** share digital copies as Google Docs. Google Docs will not be accepted.
- Google Docs can easily be converted into Word Documents or PDF files by clicking on “File” clicking on “Download as” and selecting either “Microsoft Word (.docx)” or “PDF Document (.pdf)”
- DO NOT** attach Pages files. Pages files will **NOT** be accepted.
- Digital Copies should be sent from your school email address or a personal email address that has your full name associated with hit. Do not send emails from a personal email address that does not use your full name.

Feed
by M. T. Anderson

Before You Read

Keep in mind that *Feed* is a futuristic, dystopian satire. A dystopia, the opposite of a utopia, is a fictional world in which things have gone wrong in a society in significant ways. Some other dystopias you might be familiar with are the *Hunger Games* series, the *Insurgent* series, *The Giver*, and *Fahrenheit 451*, to name just a few. Satire is a genre of literature that uses humor, exaggeration, and irony as a way to highlight problems in the world and prompt a response from the audience. What does this mean for you? If things seem strange as you start the book, know that they are supposed to. Figuring out the connections between the fictional world and our world is part of the fun. Before you begin reading, take the brief Technology Survey to get a better feel for how you think about technology in your life.

	Agree	Disagree
1. Technological advances make life better for everyone.		
2. It's important for adults to find out what their kids are doing online and who they're talking to.		
3. The internet makes finding information faster and easier.		
4. If people let machines do too much for them, eventually people will no longer be able to do things for themselves.		
5. Kids should be given more freedom in terms of what they get to do online.		
6. It's dangerous to put too much faith in technology.		
7. It's impossible to become addicted to the internet.		
8. Kids who play violent video games often believe the violence in the game is an accurate depiction of reality.		
9. Most teens are online more than they should be.		
10. Parents use phones and tablets as "babysitters" for their kids more often than they should.		

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1. Permission to write in your book

We'll talk about this more once class starts, but for now know that you are allowed to and encouraged to write in your book. (Provided it's not a library copy or a treasured edition your best friend loaned to you.) Underline things you like, mark the entrance of new characters or interesting new information, write questions and comments in the margins. If you want to get fancy, you can color code different things.

Writing in your book does two good things for you: It helps you read more actively and understand more on the first pass, and it helps you find things you want to think and talk about later.

2. Language – What are they talking about?

Because he is writing about a future world, and specifically about teenagers in a future world, M.T. Anderson invented a kind of future speak to mimic the way our slang and jargon is always shifting with the times. The word and concept of the “feed” is just one example. On the first page of the novel we find words like “null” and “unit” used in unfamiliar ways:

Everything at home was boring. Link Arkwaker was like “I'm so null,” and Marty was all, “I'm null too, unit” (3)

And the characters plan to go to a fun place for “lograv.”

Possible translation: “I feel really unstimulated.” ... “I do too, dude.” ... “Let's go to that low gravity place and float around and bounce off the walls. That'll be fun.”

How would you translate this future speak?

As you read, mark new words in the book and make a list (you can use the back of this sheet of paper) of the future speak words you encounter. Write possible definitions for the ones that confuse you. After you read further, go back and compare notes with yourself. Does your sense of the definition stay the same or does it change?

M.T. Anderson also uses a rich vocabulary of contemporary English. If you would like to help yourself learn some of these words, you can use this website:

<http://www.vocabulary.com/lists/425557#view=notes>

3. Setting – What is this world?

When a writer creates a new world in literature, they have to build that world by creating physical settings and by establishing the institutions of society (family, education, living arrangements, technology, government, entertainment and recreation, etc.) that shape the lives of the characters.

Dystopian worlds, in particular, are based on our world, but extend and exaggerate elements of our society to explore their potential outcomes.

As you read *Feed* pay attention to how he builds his world. Some things he states outright. (On page 1, the narrator tells us, “We went to the moon to have fun,” so we know right away this is a world in which travel to the moon is not just possible but available for entertainment.) Some things are implied. For instance, the ways the feed collects and supplies information about what people want to buy or what is going on in the world outside the United States.

*******As you read, make a chart of these categories: FAMILY, EDUCATION, LIVINGARRANGEMENTS, TECHNOLOGY, GOVERNMENT, ENTERTAINMENT and RECREATION. Add other categories that make sense to you as you read.*******

Arrange the chart so it is split down the middle. On one side, jot down notes about what the world is like in *Feed*. On the other side, write down the equivalent in our world.

Like this:

Technology	
<i>Feed</i>	Our Society Today
Everyone is constantly connected to the “feed” inside their brains	Everyone uses smartphones or tablets to access the internet almost everywhere, but it is possible to shut them off or put them away.

Your chart should be produced digitally and should look as much like the model shown above as possible. **THE ENTIRETY OF YOUR GRADE** for this book will be based on your satisfactory completion of the chart with all of the suggested categories represented **at least once** as well as **at least** one category that you create yourself.

Of Mice and Men
by John Steinbeck

Answer each of the following questions separately in paragraph form. Each paragraph should be 8-10 sentences in length.

1. Soledad, California is the setting of this story, and the background seems to be as much a character as the humans who take part in the action. Why do you think that Steinbeck chose this setting for the story? How does the setting help or hurt the characters?
2. When George kills Lennie, it's a shock to some readers. After all of George's devotion and loyalty, this seems like a final act of betrayal. Why do you think George killed Lennie? Do you think this killing was the right thing to do? Why did George lie about what happened with Lennie? What do you think happens to George after the book ends?
3. Why does George feel responsible for Lennie? How do George's individual desires conflict with the sense of responsibility that he feels for Lennie?
4. How are Lennie, Crooks, and Candy similar?
5. Why do you think Curley's wife is an unnamed character?
6. How is the theme of loneliness shown throughout the story? Give specific examples.
7. How is the theme of violence shown throughout the story? Give specific examples.
8. How is the theme of discrimination (any type) shown throughout the story? Give specific examples.

How to Win Friends and Influence People
by Dale Carnegie

1. Summarize each section (there are four sections). Your summaries should be 8-10 sentences in length.
2. There is a principle written at the end of each chapter. You may want to read each chapter twice so you can read the anecdotes once just to take in the information and then again after you understand the principle the chapter is illustrating.
3. In Section I, choose 1 principle that you think is the most meaningful to keep in mind in 2018 and explain why. In Section II, choose 2 principles that you think is the most meaningful to keep in mind in 2018 and explain why. In Section III, choose 4 principles

that you think are most meaningful to keep in mind in 2018 and explain why. In Section IV, choose 3 principles that you think are most meaningful to keep in mind in 2018 and explain why. Each of your explanations should be 8-10 sentences in length.