

English 12 Summer Reading 2019
Saint Vincent Ferrer High School
Mr. Mullaney

Welcome to English 12! I'm happy to have the opportunity to get to know you and to discuss exciting books next year; summer reading will get us started! The primary purpose of literature is not to engender fretting and anxiety about academic responsibilities.... So before I reveal to you just what those academic responsibilities are, I want to encourage you to give yourself the freedom to appreciate and respond to the books on a *human level* first and foremost.

You are required to read the following two novels:

***In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez**

(A fictionalized account of three real-life sisters who stood up to the Dominican dictator, Trujillo)

***1984* by George Orwell**

(The dystopian classic is widely considered one of the greatest novels ever written.)

You are required to read one of the following non-fiction novels from the list below:

***A Long Way Gone* by Ismael Beah**

(A poignant memoir of a child soldier in Sierra Leone who escapes to New York City)

***Hiroshima* by John Hersey**

(Hersey provides different perspectives of individuals who lived through the 1945 bombing)

***Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster* by Jon Krakauer**

(The author relates his disastrous trek to Mt. Everest in 1996 during which eight climbers perished.)

***The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson**

(Recounts the 1893 Chicago World's Fair with a madman on the loose)

***In the Heart of the Sea* by Nathaniel Philbrick**

(The real-life adventure that inspired the novel *Moby Dick*)

Mark-up each book as you read. (Can you do that on a Kindle?) Highlight/circle/check-off/dog-ear key passages that reveal characterization, conflict, epiphanies, central themes, etc.

(ASSIGNMENTS ON REVERSE SIDE)

Assignments:

1. **For *1984*:** Create a book jacket for the novel-- a unique one that reveals something that YOU BELIEVE IS SIGNIFICANT ABOUT THE BOOK. Create the jacket by folding in half an 8 ½ X 11 sheet of paper. Carefully consider text, font, quotes, image(s), colors, spacing, etc. Do not copy a book jacket that already exists. Also do not flatly reproduce an image of a Big Brother poster from the book; of course your interpretation of the poster is allowed if it reveals a new and imaginative perspective. The image on the cover of your book jacket need not depict a literal event from the book; the image can be symbolic or didactic—it's up to you! KEEP IN MIND: your jacket is COMMUNICATING something key. Include a paragraph of roughly 8 to 10 sentences inside the book jacket that elaborates on and explains the meaning of the external cover. This paragraph should REFER TO THE BOOK EXPLICITLY AND INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE SIGNIFICANT QUOTE.

2. **For *In the Time of the Butterflies*:** Write a well-developed paragraph of approximately ten to fifteen sentences in which you address the following question: To which Mirabal sister do you most relate? Why? Although this a personal question, be sure to allude to relevant issues of characterization in terms of the sister's response to the pressures of the novel. REFER TO THE BOOK EXPLICITLY. INCLUDE QUOTES.

3. For the non-fiction novel of your choice, you will be asked to indicate the book that you selected in the fall. There will be an in-class writing assignment about it when class begins.

Note: I'm interested in what YOU think—not in online critical sources with which I am ALREADY familiar.

Format: typed, Times New Roman font, size 12, one-inch margins all around.

Final words: HAPPY READING! ENJOY IT! DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE! HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!