

Honors English 12 Summer Reading 2018
Saint Vincent Ferrer High School
Mr. Mullaney

Welcome to Honors English 12! I'm excited to have the opportunity to get to know you and to discuss exciting books next year; summer reading will get us started! Note: art should move us to thought, to joy, to anger, to contemplation, to discussion, (to action perhaps?). 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:

***1984* by George Orwell**

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

***One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn**

(The author presents a fictionalized account of his experience in a Stalin era work camp in Siberia. This book can lend perspective to what you've learned in history class.)

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

***The Autobiography of Malcolm X* as told to Alex Haley**

(The stirring life story of the civil rights icon you may not know much about)

***Hiroshima* by John Hersey**

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

***Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi**

(A teacher and her female students secretly meet to discuss banned literature in the Republic of Iran)

***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*)

***I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban* by Malala Yousafzai**

(A moving book by the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize)

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:

1. Consider both *1984* and *One Day in the Life* and do the following: In a well-developed essay, compare and contrast (so address both similarities AND differences) how the novels address the issue of the relationship of an individual to an oppressive state. **BE VERY SPECIFIC. MAKE SUBSTANTIVE OBSERVATIONS. REFER TO THE BOOKS AND QUOTE THEM EXPLICITLY.** Consider the two protagonists and how they manage their lives. Reflect on the themes of conformity, rebellion, peer pressure, state authority, etc.... I'm not interested in the repetition of observations from critical sources (also known as plagiarism that would result in a score of zero). Feel FREE to really say what YOU think... Please include an intro that answers the question, two or three body paragraphs and a conclusion. This will be collected during the first week of class.

2. 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.

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!