

English 12 Honors
2019 Summer Reading Assignment

Dear Student,

Welcome to summer! While it may be tempting to stow away all thoughts of school for two and a half months and trade in your book bag for a beach bag, it is necessary that you begin now to prepare for a challenging, but hopefully fun and rewarding year of study in English 12 Honors by completing the following summer reading assignments. The books listed are readily available at local libraries and bookstores, but please let me know as soon as possible if you have trouble locating the books. You are welcome to borrow copies from me, but you must see me before the end of school, and you will be held responsible for their safe return in September.

Because summer does slip away from us quickly, I strongly recommend that you start on these assignments now rather than waiting until August. Believe me, if you wait, you will be sorry. The assignments listed are due on the first day of school, and you can expect other assessments of your reading to follow that week. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to email me at bandersen@pgs.k12.va.us or leave me a message at (804)733-2720, and I will get back to you as soon as I receive the message.

I do hope you find some time to relax and enjoy this summer, and I look forward to seeing you in September!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Andersen
Honors English 12 teacher

Assignments

1. a) **Read George Orwell's *1984*.** Most students really enjoy this work, and it reads fairly quickly, so don't even bother trying to use Sparknotes or any other such substitute as they will take almost as long to read as the novel, and I will know the difference.

b) As you read, keep a reading journal. I recommend a dialectical/double-entry journal as it reminds you to not only make note of significant quotations, literary devices (like symbols, allusions, and stylistic choices), but *also* to provide your commentary on what you encounter (not just WHAT you see or think is important, but HOW or WHY it is important). If you have never done a dialectical journal before, don't panic; either use an alternative organizational technique or give it your best shot and email me with your questions. I am not putting a formal length requirement on your journal, but I will be checking to see that you have kept such notes for the entire text (a practice that should become 2nd nature to you as you read anyway). If you type your journal, I will want an electronic copy AND a hard copy. Most students choose to keep the journal in a spiral notebook; it doesn't need to be bigger than a single-subject.

NOTE: Remember that if you include any "insights" in your journal that are anything less than original (i.e. –something cool you find online that you include in your journal), you MUST CITE the sources consulted. If you don't, I will know it, and you will receive a zero on the assignment – not a great way to start the year. Getting a little help isn't wrong if you acknowledge the assistance; however, know that I am most interested in YOUR ideas.

c.) You may want to go ahead and start doing some background research on Karl Marx and Socialism, as well as WWII and its political and economic impact on Great Britain and thus, Orwell's thinking. While I am not assigning anything for you to turn in the first day of school, such research would be helpful to you in our discussions and assignments.

2. a) **Read Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.** I strongly recommend keeping reading notes for this play as well, especially noting important quotes, tracing evident themes, and recording your questions; however, I will not be collecting a journal for a grade. Don't be daunted by Shakespeare's language. Instead, try reading the play aloud, maybe with one or two other people. I find it makes more sense when you hear it.

b) Write an essay (approx. 2-3 pages, typed, double-spaced) that explains how Shakespeare develops what you believe to be an important theme in the play. Be sure to support your analysis of this theme's development with specific quotes and references to the play. BE SURE TO SAVE AN ELECTRONIC COPY of your work that will be submitted to turnitin.com the first week of school, after you receive instructions about setting up a new course on the site. Be sure to hold yourself to the highest ethical standards as you work.