



CITY HONORS SCHOOL
SUMMER READING 2018

Entering Grade 11



What our ELA faculty expects you to read this summer

Required Text #1

Brave New World

Aldous Huxley

Brave New World (1932) is a dystopian novel about a possible future world. Author Aldous Huxley questions—and satirizes—human faith in scientific progress and raises issues concerning freedom, dignity, and individuality. Huxley is on record as saying that the book’s overarching theme centers on “the advancement of science as it affects human individuals.”

Assignment for *Brave New World*: Carefully read, and then read again, taking great pains to thoroughly annotate the text. Make a list in your composition notebook of the names and labels utilized in the novel—most allude to historical personages in government, industry, and science—and research their respective origins and significance. Also, please track and map some literary element, stylistic device, or rhetorical technique featured in the book, finding a way to visually represent its occurrence on a (separate) single original page, suitable for use in class discussion. Examples of previously-completed student work can be found on the instructor website located at <http://www.buffaloschools.org/webpages/AMCDERMOTT/>.

Required Text #2

Choice of one of the texts listed below.

Purple Hibiscus

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

The Handmaid’s Tale

Margaret Atwood

The Road

Cormac McCarthy

Slaughterhouse-Five

Kurt Vonnegut

Assignment for required text #2: As you read, mark and annotate passages you deem significant. Be prepared to share your findings and insights through both class discussion and written responses.

Why we expect you to complete this reading

Our IB Language A: Literature classes aid students in the development of their ability to engage in close, detailed analysis of literary works, as well as build understanding of the techniques involved in literary criticism. The study of literary works in context is emphasized and, through the study of world literature, the student is challenged to reflect on the role of cultural assumptions in interpretation.

What you should do before you read these texts

Take some time to research the ways in which time and place matter to these works you are about to read.

What you should do while you are reading

See mandatory assignments for each work.

How we will make use of the reading when we return to school

Brave New World will be a foundational text for the first semester, serving as a resource for our formal assessment known as the Independent Oral Presentation [IOP]. This IOP—comprising 15% of the two-year IB Language A: Literature grade—requires students to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of at least one first semester text through a self-chosen task in consultation with the teacher.

Additionally, group presentations dealing with required text #2 will be given in September.

Additional things you need to succeed in English Language Arts for the upcoming school year

A list of the remaining mandatory texts for the school year will be sent home by the end of September—all will be available to order through Chiron's Corner Bookstore at CHS.

Whom to contact for questions

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