

Summer 2023 Reading: English I and GT English I

The purpose of summer reading is complex:

- To help build confidence and competence as readers of complex texts
- To set up a basis for comparison with other works we will read during the year
- To establish background knowledge needed to get the most out of works we will study in the coming year
- Last, but not least, to enrich your mind and stimulate your imagination

If you are able to purchase your own copies of these books, you can annotate as you read and will have the books to refer to later in the year. If not, you can find these works in the local library or online. Although video versions of your book may exist and can be enjoyable, they differ greatly from the written word; it is better to rely on the works themselves.

Grading: All summer reading assignments and tests will be graded based upon your deeper insights on how literary/rhetorical devices as well as excerpted evidence add meaning to the text. Surface level interpretations as well as those found on websites such as Sparknotes are not considered 'A' level work. You will be rewarded for your own thoughts and ideas.

Plagiarism: Any student found to have used ANY OTHER person's ideas or words **will** receive a zero for the assignment and face disciplinary action as this is a violation of CMHS Honor Code and a serious infraction within our community of learners.

English I ALL LEVELS and GT English I

Nonfiction: The Anthropocene Reviewed by John Green

This is a collection of short essays that was originally presented as a series of podcasts, so some essays may be available online as audio files. Please look at the topics of the various essays and feel free to omit those which do not align with your personal values or those that you fear may address uncomfortable or difficult topics.

Write a **500-word review** of a person, place, thing, or idea of your choosing— anything you are interested in writing about. For example, John Green has presented on "love at first sight," Diet Dr. Pepper, the Indianapolis 500, etc. You are allowed to pursue any topic. If you need ideas, consider:

- A favorite food or drink (see Green's "Diet Dr. Pepper" essay, or the podcast episode on the Taco Bell Breakfast menu)
- An activity (see "Academic Decathlon")
- Something from your childhood (see "Monopoly," "Scratch n Sniff Stickers," "Teddy Bears")
- Something from nature (see "Halley's Comet," "Sunsets," "Wintry Mix")
- Anything! (Mrs. Youngblood's favorites are "Whispering" and "Penguins of Madagascar")

Do your best to imitate Green's style and structure. For example:

- Begin with historical background info to hook the audience.
- Include a personal anecdote.
- Look for deeper, philosophical meaning somewhere.
- End with a star review (out of five)

Fiction: Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Your assignment on Fahrenheit 451 allows you to pick what you want to do. You will need to complete enough assignments—assignments of YOUR choice—to earn **at least fifty points**. You need to Circle the projects you have chosen to do and hand in this sheet when you present. We will present the second week of school. Note: Sorry, no extra points.

A. (10 points each)

- 1A. Using a visual aid of YOUR choice, give us a full rundown of the plot of your novel in sixty seconds or less.
- 2A. Using any artistic materials at your disposal, sketch one key scene from your book, and briefly explain it to the class.
- 3A. Write a poem of at least twenty lines about the conflict of one character in the novel.

B. (30 points each)

- 1B. Prepare a storyboard (like a longer version of a comic strip) for your novel. It should include at least five major scenes from the novel, and you will present and explain it to the class. (not for use with the first appetizer)
- 2B. Write a short essay of at least 300 words about what you think the theme, or main idea, of the novel is, and support your argument with details from the novel.

C. (5 points each)

- 1C. Create a five song playlist made up of songs that connect to your novel in some way—they can be as specific as you want (i.e. one character's reaction to a line of dialogue), or as general (i.e. the theme of the novel). Feel free to play VERY SHORT snippets of the songs for us. Ten to fifteen seconds each, at most. No inappropriate content, obviously...
- 2C. Come up with nicknames for five characters in the novel, and explain where you came up with them.
- 3C. Create a five-question multiple choice pop quiz that you would give to a class and orally ask the questions. Good questions and answers are necessary for the points here. Don't just ask the name of the author.