

Summer Reading 2013-2014

English IV Honors

Students should take notes in a handwritten (or printable) journal. Students will be assessed on their summer reading with an in-class essay focused on a literary term. Students may use their notes for this assessment. Students should prepare the *Brave New World* research project below on their own during the summer. It will be due during the first week of school. Both assessments are test grades.

- *Brave New World* (Huxley)
- *Grendel* (Gradner)
- and**
- Two free choice books from the following list:

Joyce, James, *Dubliners*

Collection of 15 short stories set within the geographic boundary of Dublin. Contents include: "The Sisters", "An Encounter", "Araby", "Eveline", "After the Race", "Two Gallants", "The Boarding House", "A Little Cloud", "Counterparts", "Clay", "A Painful Case", "Ivy Day in the Committee Room", "A Mother", "Grace", "The Dead".

More, Sir Thomas, *Utopia*

Did you know that the word "utopia" first appeared in Sir Thomas More's book? More describes a pagan and communist city-state which is governed by reason. The order and dignity of such a place was intended to contrast with the unreasonable state of the Europe of his time. More saw Europe divided by self-interest and greed for power and riches.

Stoker, Bram, *Dracula*

The vampire novel that started it all. When Jonathan Harker visits Transylvania to help Count Dracula purchase a London house, he makes horrifying discoveries about his client. Soon afterward, disturbing incidents unfold in England—an unmanned ship is wrecked at Whitby, strange puncture marks appear on a young woman's neck, and a lunatic asylum inmate raves about the imminent arrival of his "Master"—culminating in a battle of wits between the sinister Count and a determined group of adversaries.

Wilde, Oscar, *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Oscar Wilde's madcap farce about mistaken identities, secret engagements, and lovers' entanglements still delights readers more than a century after its 1895 publication and premiere performance. Cecily Cardew and Gwendolen Fairfax are both in love with the same mythical suitor. Jack Worthing has wooed Gwendolen as Ernest while Algernon has also posed as Ernest to win the heart of Jack's ward, Cecily. When all four arrive at Jack's country home on the same weekend—the "rivals" to fight for Ernest's undivided attention and the "Ernests" to claim their beloveds—pandemonium breaks loose.

Wilde, Oscar, *Picture of Dorian Gray*

Lord Henry Wotton is a spectator in life and he does his best to influence Dorian in that direction. Dorian becomes corrupt and self-indulgent. But in answer to his prayer, he escapes unscarred from his escapades. The portrait of this man powerfully establishes evil as a reality in the novel.

Woolf, Virginia, *A Room of One's Own*

In one of the most entertaining and brilliant essays ever written on the importance of freedom for women, Woolf brings her literary imagination and defiant wit to bear on the relationship between gender, money, and the creation of works of genius.

Research Project:

Aldous Huxley used his novel *Brave New World* as a means to express his concerns about the future of the world from his perspective in 1932. Time has shown Huxley to be very accurate in many ways. While he initially felt that some of the problems he warns of would not occur for 100 years, within two and a half decades he felt that many already existed. One can only wonder what Huxley would think of the world we live in if he were alive today.

- ❖ What similar issues exist today in our country or in the world today? How and where are they manifested? Describe the issues as they exist and then examine what benefits or concerns they raise for the future.

DO THIS: Identify an issue the U.S. or the world faces today and in a two page (double-spaced) MLA-style paper (use at least two credible resources) do **all** of the following:

- Research the origins and causes of the issue.
- Examine the pros and cons related to the issue. What are the strengths/weaknesses? What are the advantages/disadvantages? How will the issue's future help or hinder society? Argue one side or debate various viewpoints and perspectives. Who are the stakeholders and what's at stake?
- Offer your recommendations for the future. Consider 1) the short term and long term impacts, 2) solutions or alternatives to the issue, 3) problems yet unseen worthy of investigation 4) steps the American people and/or government must take to assure America's future success and/or the world's sustainable future, and 5) other projections you feel are necessary.
- Relate your research to Huxley's ideas in *Brave New World*.

Some topics to consider: Huxley's novel suggested a number of ways to resolve the problems of the world including those listed below. You may select from these ideas discussed within the novel and/or you may address other current issues.

Overpopulation

Pollution (climate)

Communication/Technical advancements

Procreation

Abortion

Society's handling of death and the dying

Labor problems

World instability

Prejudice (racial,ethnic,gender, etc.)

Biological threats

Marriage/Family

Drug Abuse

Education

Cloning, stem cell research, genetic engineering

Economy (consider privacy issues, insurance, career choices, etc.)