

Incoming 12th Grade Academic and Dual Credit English
Required Summer Reading 2009
Bellaire High School

Incoming 12th Grade Academic & Dual Credit English

(total required reading: 1 book)

- Students must read ONE of the following:
Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
1984 by George Orwell

ASSIGNMENT

Keep a journal as you read the novel. Your journal may be kept on regular, loose-leaf paper. In your journal, make notes about the following:

- important characters
- words that are new to you
- important themes in the novel
- important symbols (and what they symbolize)
- summaries of each chapter
- questions you have about parts of the book you don't fully understand
- your own response to or evaluation of what you are reading

Also, write a two-page paper (handwritten or typed) in which you compare the novel you read with any other work of literature that you have read. Analyze the novel based on your own opinions and ideas (emphasis is on your ideas and analysis). Your reader's journal and your paper will be turned in together in a 3-brad folder (any color) on the first day of school.

If you are not already familiar with the terms "dystopia" and "dystopian novel," you will find it helpful to look them up, either on the internet or at your local library.

- Students enrolled in English 4 Academic may contact Mrs. Phillips (rphilli4@houstonisd.org), Mrs. Broze (lbroze@houstonisd.org), or Ms. Thomas (kthomas5@houstonisd.org) with any questions about the assignment.
- Students enrolled in English 4 Dual Credit may contact Mrs. Green (pgreen@houstonisd.org) with any questions about the assignment.

All BHS required summer reading books are readily available at most major bookstores and on-line booksellers.

About the Books

***Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley**

"Community, Identity, Stability" is the motto of Aldous Huxley's utopian World State. Here everyone consumes daily grams of soma, to fight depression, babies are born in laboratories, and the most popular form of entertainment is a "Feelie," a movie that stimulates the senses of sight, hearing, and touch. Though there is no violence and everyone is provided for, Bernard Marx feels something is missing and senses his relationship with a young woman has the potential to be much more than the confines of their existence allow. Huxley foreshadowed many of the practices and gadgets we take for granted today--let's hope the sterility and absence of individuality he predicted aren't yet to come. (from www.amazon.com)

***1984* by George Orwell**

In a grim city and a terrifying country, where Big Brother is always Watching You and the Thought Police can practically read your mind, Winston is a man in grave danger for the simple reason that his memory still functions. He knows the Party's official image of the world is a fluid fiction. He knows the Party controls the people by feeding them lies and narrowing their imaginations through a process of bewilderment and brutalization that alienates each individual from his fellows and deprives him of every liberating human pursuit from reasoned inquiry to sexual passion. Drawn into a forbidden love affair, Winston finds the courage to join a secret revolutionary organization called The Brotherhood, dedicated to the destruction of the Party. Together with his beloved Julia, he hazards his life in a deadly match against the powers that be.

Newspeak, doublethink, thoughtcrime--in *1984*, George Orwell created a whole vocabulary of words concerning totalitarian control that have since passed into our common vocabulary. More importantly, he has portrayed a chillingly credible dystopia. In our deeply anxious world, the seeds of unthinking conformity are everywhere in evidence; and Big Brother is always looking for his chance. --*Daniel Hintzsche* (from www.amazon.com)