

Summer Reading 2023-2024

Honors English IV - Senior

Required Reading:*

- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

“Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television “family.” But when he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn’t live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known.” (Amazon)

<https://a.co/d/5akJubW>

Students should be prepared for an assessment of *Fahrenheit 451* on the first full day of class. Summer reading guide should be completed as well. A copy of the reading guide is attached to this document.

Choice Read (select 1 from the following list):*

Students will be responsible for a presentation (guidelines on Google Classroom) of their choice read selection.

- *Dracula* by Bram Stoker

“When Jonathan Harker visits Transylvania to help Count Dracula with the purchase of a London house, he makes a series of horrific discoveries about his client. Soon afterwards, various bizarre incidents unfold in England: an apparently unmanned ship is wrecked off the coast of Whitby, a young woman discovers strange puncture marks on her neck and the inmate of a lunatic asylum raves about the ‘Master’ and his imminent arrival.

In *Dracula*, Bram Stoker created one of the great masterpieces of the horror genre, brilliantly evoking a nightmare world of vampires and vampire hunters and also illuminating the dark corners of Victorian sexuality and desire.” (Amazon)

<https://a.co/d/hK1xFcV>

- *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott

"*Little Women* is recognized as one of the best-loved classic children's stories, transcending the boundaries of time and age, making it as popular with adults as it is with young listeners. The beloved story of the March girls is a classic American feminist novel, reflecting the tension between cultural obligation and artistic and personal freedom.

But which of the four March sisters to love best? For every listener must have their favorite. Independent, tomboyish Jo; delicate, loving Beth; pretty, kind Meg; or precocious and beautiful Amy, the baby of the family?

The charming story of these four ‘little women’ and their wise and patient mother, Marmee, enduring hardships and enjoying adventures in Civil War-era New England was an instant success when first published in 1868 and has been adored for generations.” (Amazon)

<https://a.co/d/axBycGk>

- *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens

“Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations* charts the course of orphan Pip Pirrip's life as it is transformed by a vast, mysterious inheritance. A terrifying encounter with the escaped convict Abel Magwitch in a graveyard on the wild Kent marshes; a summons to meet the bitter, decrepit Miss Havisham and her beautiful, cold-hearted ward Estella at Satis House; the sudden generosity of a mysterious benefactor -

these form a series of events that change the orphaned Pip's life forever, and he eagerly abandons his humble station as an apprentice to blacksmith Joe Gargery, beginning a new life as a gentleman. Charles Dickens's haunting late novel depicts Pip's education and development through adversity as he discovers the true nature of his identity, and his 'great expectations'." (Amazon)

<https://a.co/d/gkG40Xp>

- *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

"Few have failed to be charmed by the witty and independent spirit of Elizabeth Bennet in Austen's beloved classic *Pride and Prejudice*. When Elizabeth Bennet first meets eligible bachelor Fitzwilliam Darcy, she thinks him arrogant and conceited; he is indifferent to her good looks and lively mind. When she later discovers that Darcy has involved himself in the troubled relationship between his friend Bingley and her beloved sister Jane, she is determined to dislike him more than ever. In the sparkling comedy of manners that follows, Jane Austen shows us the folly of judging by first impressions and superbly evokes the friendships, gossip and snobberies of provincial middle-class life." (Amazon)

<https://a.co/d/bvkSqlQ>

- *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah-----some mature content

"Texas, 1934. Millions are out of work and a drought has broken the Great Plains. Farmers are fighting to keep their land and their livelihoods as the crops are failing, the water is drying up, and dust threatens to bury them all. One of the darkest periods of the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl era, has arrived with a vengeance.

In this uncertain and dangerous time, Elsa Martinelli—like so many of her neighbors—must make an agonizing choice: fight for the land she loves or go west, to California, in search of a better life. *The Four Winds* is an indelible portrait of America and the American Dream, as seen through the eyes of one indomitable woman whose courage and sacrifice will come to define a generation."

<https://a.co/d/8N2GmZ4>

- *Watchmen* by Alan Moore & Dave Gibbons (graphic/comic-style novel with mature images)* "A hit

HBO original series, *Watchmen*, the groundbreaking series from award-winning author Alan Moore, presents a world where the mere presence of American superheroes changed history--the U.S. won the Vietnam War, Nixon is still president, and the Cold War is in full effect.

Considered the greatest graphic novel in the history of the medium, the Hugo Award-winning story chronicles the fall from grace of a group of superheroes plagued by all-too-human failings. Along the way, the concept of the superhero is dissected as an unknown assassin stalks the erstwhile heroes." (Amazon)

<https://a.co/aCsuHli>

- *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr

"Marie-Laure lives in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where her father works. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure's reclusive great uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum's most valuable and dangerous jewel.

In a mining town in Germany, Werner Pfennig, an orphan, grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find that brings them news and stories from places they have never seen or imagined. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments and is enlisted to use his talent to track down the resistance. Deftly interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner, Doerr illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another." (Amazon)

<https://a.co/haEtNSI>

- *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini

"The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, caught in the tragic sweep of history, *The Kite Runner* transports readers to

Afghanistan at a tense and crucial moment of change and destruction. A powerful story of friendship, it is also about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and an exploration of the power of fathers over sons—their love, their sacrifices, their lies.” (Amazon)

<https://a.co/97IBM34>

- *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi

“One of Oprah’s Best Books of the Year and a PEN/Hemingway award winner, *Homegoing* follows the parallel paths of these sisters and their descendants through eight generations: from the Gold Coast to the plantations of Mississippi, from the American Civil War to Jazz Age Harlem. Yaa Gyasi’s extraordinary novel illuminates slavery’s troubled legacy both for those who were taken and those who stayed—and shows how the memory of captivity has been inscribed on the soul of our nation.”

(Amazon)

<https://a.co/dd5qyv8>

- *Kindred* by Octavia Butler

“The visionary author’s masterpiece pulls us—along with her Black female hero—through time to face the horrors of slavery and explore the impacts of racism, sexism, and white supremacy then and now. Dana, a modern black woman, is celebrating her twenty-sixth birthday with her new husband when she is snatched abruptly from her home in California and transported to the antebellum South. Rufus, the white son of a plantation owner, is drowning, and Dana has been summoned to save him. Dana is drawn back repeatedly through time to the slave quarters, and each time the stay grows longer, more arduous, and more dangerous until it is uncertain whether or not Dana’s life will end, long before it has a chance to begin.” (Amazon)

<https://a.co/0TRPk2f>

Reading Guide - Fahrenheit 451

Senior English

Title: Author: Date of Publication: Genre:	Biographical Information about the Author:
Characteristics of the Genre:	

Plot Summary: (exposition, rising action-conflict, climax, falling action, resolution)	
Exposition:	
Rising Action (usually driven by conflict):	
Climax (character makes a choice):	
Falling Action:	
Resolution:	
Connect to an outside context: (historical)	Connect to an outside context: (current issue)
<u>Memorable Quotes</u>	

Quotes and page number (required):	Significance of each quote: (and literary device if applicable)

Characters			
Name	Role in Story (protagonist, antagonist, foil, antihero, etc.)	Significance	Adjectives

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Setting(s)	Significance of Opening Scene
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	Significance of Ending or Closing Scene
Symbols	Biblical References
	<div>1.</div> <div>2.</div> <div>3.</div>
Possible Themes	

Students will prepare a presentation on their choice read text. Presentations will be given during class time. This assignment will count as a test grade.

Presentation - Summer Reading Choice

Information to include is listed below:

Character(s)

- what specific textual details reveal about a character, that character's perspective, and that character's motives
- describe any changes in character
- foil characters

Setting

- what details do we have about the setting
- the symbolic meaning of the setting
- what does the setting reveal about the characters

Structure

- plot structure
- conflict
- significance of a specific event

Narration

- identify and describe the narrator
- point of view
- diction and syntax used in a particular event
- is the narrator reliable?

Figurative Language

- simile and metaphor
- symbolism
- the function of imagery as related to a particular setting

Themes

- identify 3 major themes
- examples of each from the text

Due on Friday, August 12th

Presentations will be given during class on August 12th