

HONORS ENGLISH II – SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS 2023

General instructions: To accommodate for students who are reliant on their surfaces to complete their work and to use Teams as a means of submitting work, due dates for summer work are somewhat flexible. Look for an e-mail for a new Team for Honors English II around August 1st. Once that has been set up, there will be assignments in Teams for the submission of your summer work.

Some reminders for submitting your work:

- Always submit Word documents on Teams. It's much easier for grading than OneNote or GoogleDocs.
- Always follow MLA guidelines for formatting your work including an appropriate heading, correct spacing, etc.
- Always use literary present tense in writing about literature.
- Never use first- or second-person personal pronouns such as I, we, you, and their variations in formal academic writing.
- Essays should follow the five-paragraph essay structure unless otherwise indicated.

Assignment #1: *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

- Read the novel.
- Respond to the following analysis questions:
 1. The following three quotes each reflect an idea embodied in the novel. Choose ONE and explain the connection between the quote and the novel.
 - a. "Books won't stay banned. They won't burn. Ideas won't go to jail. In the long run of history, the censor and the inquisitor have always lost. The only sure weapon against bad ideas is better ideas. The source of better ideas is wisdom." Alfred Whitney Griswold, *Essays on Education*
 - b. "Where they have burned books, they will end in burning human beings." Heinrich Heine, *Almansor*
 - c. "For books are not absolutely dead things, but . . . do preserve as in a vial the purest efficacy and extraction of that living intellect that bred them . . . Who kills a man kills a reasonable creature, God's image; but he who destroys a book, kills reason itself, kills the image of God, as it were in the eye. Many a man lives a burden to the earth; but a good book is the precious life-blood of a master spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life." John Milton, "Areopagitica"
 2. Find an example of ONE of the following types of irony in the novel and analyze the effect and purpose of your example: situational, dramatic; verbal.
 3. This novel contains many symbols and archetypes. Choose ONE of the following symbols and explain its meaning and how it is connected to one of the themes of the novel. The symbols are: salamander; phoenix; Tower of Babel; mechanical hound; mirror; books.
 4. Now choose TWO of the following archetypes and explain its significance in the novel. The universally accepted meaning for each archetype is given as well (This question requires TWO paragraphs):
 - A. The color black (darkness) – This color often signifies the unknown, death, the unconscious, evil, or great power.
 - B. The color red – This color often signifies blood, violence, and chaos.
 - C. The color white (light) – As a positive color, it signifies purity and innocence; in its negative aspects, it represents death and terror.
 - D. Snake or serpent – The snake is nearly always a symbol of evil energy and force.
 - E. Sun or fire – This paradoxical symbol represents creative energy and the passage of time. The setting sun represents death.
 - F. Water or river – Rivers represent death and rebirth and the flowing of time.

- G. The good mother – She is a positive female character associated with warmth, nourishment, growth, and abundance.
 - H. The wise old man – A character who comes to the rescue of the hero, the old man is knowledgeable and moral; he represents truth.
 - I. The season of fall – Autumn suggests old age and approaching death.
5. Explain the significance of title of ONE of the three parts of the novel. The names are: part one – “The Hearth and the Salamander;” part two – “The Sieve and the Sand;” part three – “Burning Bright.”
 6. Look up the characteristics of dystopian societies portrayed in novels. How well does *Fahrenheit 451* fit into this category of novel? Be sure to use specific examples from the novel to support your answer.
- Write an essay responding to the following prompt:

This novel should be read with the premise that Bradbury’s message in the novel is that “oppressive government, left unchecked, can do irreparable damage to society by limiting the creativity and freedom of its people.” Does the novel support this premise? Why or why not? Use evidence from the novel to support your position.
 - Submit your work no later than August 21.

Assignment #2 – The Non-white Experience

- Read one of the following books (they are not all novels; some are nonfiction) which deal with the experience of people who are not of Caucasian and/or Western European descent and/or who live in what is commonly referred to as a Third World country.
 - a. *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez
 - b. *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe
 - c. *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* by Katherine Boo
 - d. *The Good Braider* by Terry Farish
 - e. *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri
 - f. *Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolpho Anaya
- Respond to the following analysis questions:
 1. Create a theme statement for the novel based on your reading and then support your theme statement.
 2. Explain the significance of the name of the book you have chosen.
 3. Explain one symbol from the book you have chosen.
 4. Explain how the format or type of work (memoir, nonfiction reportage, poetry, short stories, novel, etc.) suits the author’s message.
 5. Find an example of ONE of the following types of irony in your book and analyze the effect and purpose of your example: situational, dramatic; verbal.
 6. Referencing the list of archetypes from your final essay for Honors English I, choose an archetype that exists within your book and explain how it works within the book’s context.
 7. What have you learned about the culture and experience of the people whose stories are told within this work? How are their experiences different from yours? How are they similar?
- Submit your work on Teams by August 21.
- You will write an essay or complete a group project (I haven’t decided which) during the first two weeks of school.