Dear Class of 2018,

Welcome to your senior year and to AP English Literature! I hope you are ready for a year of great reading and writing. Attached you will find instructions for the summer reading assignment for AP English Literature. Books can be purchased at most local bookstores as well as online. As many of you know, purchasing your own books allows you to make notes and highlight important passages directly into your book as you read, rather than purchasing sticky notes to annotate. Marking your books can help enormously in writing essays during the year; additionally, it can be a powerful tool to help you remember the events and literary devices in the novel. For these reasons, I also recommend reading the novels in non-digital format. However, I would first suggest taking some time to make sure you choose the book that will most appeal to you. Read a summary of the four books listed under Assignment 1, and maybe even download and read a sample first.

Over the summer, it is important to keep reading, writing, and thinking critically in preparation for the upcoming school year. The English Language Arts Department at BVHS believes that integrating summer reading into the curriculum helps students transition into the new school year more quickly. According to the American Library Association, students who read over the summer are more likely to build life-long reading habits and keep up their basic reading skills. Additionally, summer reading can generate interest in libraries, books, and reading in general.

Assignment 1 – Due Monday, August 21
1. Choose and read one book from the following list:
   -- *Pride & Prejudice* by Jane Austen
   -- *Tess of the D’Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy
   -- *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky
   -- *Catch 22* by Joseph Heller

   All four of these books appear frequently as choices for the open-ended question 3 on the AP test. Familiarity with any/all will be of benefit.

2. Address the following journal prompts and compose original entries that display your BEST writing skills, including a reaction to the topic and textual evidence to support all ideas. Details should demonstrate a close understanding of the text.

   The responses to these prompts should be written in INK in a 3-section spiral notebook that will be used for journal entries throughout the year. These entries should be written only on the right-hand sides of the page (not on the back side of the pages) and should display your BEST writing skills, including a reaction to the topic and textual evidence to support all ideas. Details should demonstrate a close understanding of the text. Note: If you are left-handed and wish to write on the left-hand sides of the page, that is acceptable.

   **Journal Prompts:**
   - Choose a quotation from your book that BEST conveys the novel’s main theme.
   - Identify the main conflict of your book – man vs. man, man vs. himself, man vs. nature, man vs. society, or man vs. fate.
   - Choose a character in your book and analyze his/her development and motivation throughout the novel, providing specific textual support (with page numbers) from the beginning, middle, and end of book.
   - Connect what you read to another work with a similar theme, situation, or conflict or compare your book to a film version (if there is one available).
   - Research a particular element of your book to expand your understanding of what you read – author, setting, time period, allusions, or another element of your choice.

Assignment, part 2 – Due Tuesday, September 5
1. Read *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley

2. Writing Assignments
   Because detailed literary analysis and critical thinking are extremely important in AP English Literature, part of your response should focus on stylistic and thematic analysis. It is also important to step back and look at the bigger picture of a piece of literature. Complete each of the following for *Brave New World*, labeling your responses
accordingly. **Again, you should bring a hard copy to class, and have them submitted to turnitin.com by your class period.**

a. **Style Analysis** – Select one passage that effectively uses stylistic devices: diction, syntax, imagery, tone, figurative language, etc. Consider carefully the length of the passage you choose; longer passages should be completely analyzed, and shorter passages might have many aspects to discuss – be thorough, either way. Type the passage using MLA documentation. Then, thoroughly explain how the stylistic device(s) in this particular passage contributes to the overall effect and/or meaning of this specific passage. Remember to cite your quotations using MLA documentation rules.

b. **Theme Analysis** – Select one passage that reflects your understanding of the novel’s major theme. Consider carefully the length of the passage you choose, for the same reasons listed under “style analysis.” Again, type the passage using MLA documentation. Then, thoroughly explain how the passage reflects the theme and how this theme is significant to the work as a whole. Be sure your discussion identifies the theme.

c. **Overview** – Think critically about what you have read. What does it all mean? Make universal connections, looking at the work as a whole. Write about things that are truly significant – this is not a plot summary.

In addition to these specific activities, students are expected to keep track of the specific details of character and plot.

**Note:** All assignments should be in MLA format (header/heading), double-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman, 1” margins. Allowing for appropriate headings, your style and theme analyses should not extend past 1 page (excluding the length of the passage); your overview should not extend past 1 ½ pages.

Feel free to email me over the summer if you have any questions on the assignments. I look forward to a great 2017-2018! Have a good summer!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Floray Balke
AP English Literature
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Twitter: @docbalke

This assignment is also posted on the school’s website and on my website [www.jbalke.weebly.com](http://www.jbalke.weebly.com).

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I have received a copy of the 2017-18 AP English Literature Summer Reading Assignment.

**I realize that my book choice should be read before school starts,** and that the assignments are due **August 21, 2017.** Additionally, I understand that *Brave New World* is due on **September 5, 2017.**

Name ________________________ Signature ________________________________

School Email __________________________________________________________

*Your school email address will be utilized frequently in this class. Personal email is not appropriate for school use.*