

English 12 Dual Enrollment Summer 2017 Reading Assignment

- Read George Orwell's *1984*, available for checkout from your English teacher while school is in session or from the GHS Counseling Office after school is out.
- Before reading *1984*, read the following background on Orwell & the novel. Avoid other outside reading about Orwell & the novel. (I am interested in your original ideas, interpretations); avoid viewing any film versions of novel.
 - Look up following terms before beginning the novel; keep definitions handy while reading: *utopia* and *dystopia* (*dystopian literature/novel*), *totalitarianism*.
 - Consider the following information about the novel before and while reading:
 - A British novelist born in India in 1903, Orwell considered himself a democratic socialist & was critical of communism, totalitarianism, political authority in general. Democratic socialism is a political view that advocates political **democracy** alongside social ownership of the means of production, with **democratic** management of enterprises within a **socialist** economic system.
 - Written in 1947 & published in 1948, the novel has a title that reverses the last two digits of the publication year to create the 1984/future setting.
 - The novel is set in a futuristic version of London in Oceania, a huge country ruled by The Party, led by a figure called "Big Brother."
 - The Inner Party (1% of pop.) control the country
 - The Outer Party (14% of pop.) are controlled by the Inner Party
 - The Proles (85% of pop.) are the labor power and live in poverty. The word *prole* is a shortened form of *proletariat*, the class of wage earners, especially those who earn their living by manual labor or who are dependent for support on daily or casual employment; the working class. In Marxist theory, the proletariat is the class of workers, especially industrial wage earners, who do not possess capital or property and must sell their labor to survive.
 - Novel's **protagonist**: thirty-nine-year-old Winston Smith, low-ranking member of the ruling Party.
 - Other important characters include Julia, O'Brien, Mr. Charrington; other important figures, though technically never making an actual appearance in the novel: Big Brother and Emmanuel Goldstein.
 - Big Brother, the perceived ruler of Oceania -- looks like a combination of Hitler and Stalin; his God-like image is stamped on coins & projected on telescreens -- his face is unavoidable.
 - Goldstein, leader of the Brotherhood, underground organization rebelling against the Party.
 - **Newspeak**, official language of Oceania, is opposed to **Oldspeak** (Standard English), to be replaced with Newspeak, which eliminates undesirable words and invents new words -- all to force Party conformity
 - **Doublethink** is the manipulation of the mind by making people accept contradictions; it is the power to accept two contradictory ideas simultaneously:
 - Doublethink makes people believe the Party is the only institution that knows right from wrong.
 - "The Ministry of Truth" (where Winston works) changes history, facts, and memories to promote Doublethink.

- **Choose** Standard Option OR Creative Option as your Analysis Part of the Summer Assignment:

STANDARD OPTION

- As you read, tag **at least 3 passages on the topic of Power and/or Powerlessness** [Consider especially the individual (Winston) versus society (the Party, Oceania, totalitarianism)]
 - Passages should be worthy of analysis and interpretation
 - Typically, passages should consist of at least four lines of printed text and more than two sentences.
 - Select a passage from each section of the novel. The novel divides into sections ONE, TWO, & THREE; select a passage from Part ONE, from Part TWO, & from Part THREE.
 - If you use a print copy of the novel, keep track of the page number/numbers on which the passages are taken; if you're using an electronic copy (via a Kindle, for example), keep track of the section & subsection of each passage.
- Write a response to each passage on the topic of Power by doing the following:
 - Copy the passage and the page number or section and subsections. I encourage you to type all of your work as a word-processed file if you have access to a computer. If you choose to handwrite the work and submit the whole assignment handwritten, please write in black or blue ink.
 - As you read, generate & write down a list of questions about each passage and the topic; reflect on your questions as you read more of the novel; write your speculations about possible answers to your questions.
 - Record any other thoughts or impressions you have about each passage and the topic and how the passage and topic relate to the novel as a whole.
 - Respond to the following question: What does this passage have say about the nature of power, not just in the novel, but in life and the world in general?
 - Write a minimum of two paragraphs on each passage, with each paragraph being a minimum of five sentences. You may write more paragraphs and longer paragraphs.
- Select a second topic from one of the topics below this bullet and tag **at least 3 passages on that topic**:
 - Love and/or Hate (or Lack of Love)
 - Fear and/or Fearlessness
 - Loyalty and/or Betrayal

- Repeat the first and second bullets under Standard Edition for the second topic.
- When you have finished reading the novel and selecting and commenting on passages, reread the three passages on one of the two topics and do the following:
 - What other works of literature (not limited to other novels you've read in and out of school but including popular movies, TV programs, and songs) express similar ideas? How does reflecting on what others have to say on this topic help you understand what Orwell is saying? How does reflecting on what Orwell is saying help you understand what others are saying on this topic? [Label your response to this prompt: Connections on the Topic of (Power, for example or Love, for instance)] **WRITE AT LEAST TWO PARAGRAPHS OF FIVE SENTENCES EACH FOR your response to this prompt.**
 - Based on all the passages from this topic, what do you think is one of the themes of the work and what are your thoughts about this theme? [Label your response to this prompt Theme on the Topic of (Power, for example or Love, for instance)] **WRITE AT LEAST ONE PARAGRAPH (minimum of five sentences) FOR each topic. Please identify the theme you think Orwell is suggesting in a single sentence. Example: In *1984*, Orwell is saying that power is**

CREATIVE OPTION

- **Repeat bullets 1 and 2 under Standard Option.**
- **Next**, choose one of the following right-brain activities:
 - 1. (Visual Artist): Draw or paint a picture of one of the main characters. Your illustration should clearly reveal some major personality trait you have gathered from your reading. (You must be able to draw competently to choose this option. No stick figures, please. No computer generated images, please.) This may be a rough pencil sketch, an inked sketch, or color picture. You may also substitute sculpture in place of sketches. Write a brief 50 to 100-word paragraph explaining how this art is appropriate for this novel.
 - 2. (Musician): Imagine that this book is being made into a movie (please do not view any of the existing film versions.) You are to select music appropriate for the film. Select a piece for the opening title and credit. Additionally, select one scene from the novel and an appropriate piece of music. Write a brief 50 to 100-word paragraph explaining why this music is appropriate for the beginning of the film and for this scene. Select two scenes from within the book and choose music appropriate for each scene. Submit the music on a CD or flash drive.
 - 3. (Dramatist): As the screenwriter, you decide to add a scene that was not originally in the book. Using proper script format, write a new scene using characters from the book. In an accompanying paragraph of 50 to 100 words, explain where it would appear in the chronology of scenes and why you would add this particular scene.
 - 4. (Poet): Select one of the characters from the book, and write a poem in the voice of that character (in first person as if you were that character) about a particular experience from your life. You must write at least twelve lines. Your poem should have at least two uses of metaphor, simile, or personification. Your poem should include at least four concrete sensory images, one of which should appeal to a sense other than the sense of sight. [Example: The low growl of the dog = auditory image] You do not need to make the lines rhyme, but you must write in lines. A sentence, for instance, might stretch over several lines. A really good poem would include information from the novel as well as an insight into or information not present in the novel. Include the name of the character in the title of your poem.
 - 5. (Musician): Write and/or record an original song about an event or character in your book. This song may be in the form of a rap or lyric. Submit a copy of the lyrics and provide the teacher with an audio file. [RECORDING AN ORIGINAL SONG IN ADDITION TO WRITING LYRICS WILL GAIN YOU EXTRA CREDIT.]
 - 6. (Psychologist): Write an advice column on a topic related to events in the novel. (You might imagine that one of the characters in the novel has written to you about her or his problems – For this you should construct both the letter to the advice columnist and the advice columnist's response.) You must write a minimum of 300 words.
 - 7. (Craftsman): Design a piece of wood or metal work of art, which would relate to conflicts or themes in this novel. Write a 50 to 100-word paragraph explaining how this piece reflects those conflicts or themes.
 - 8. (Athlete): In a 300-word response, compare/ contrast one common sports with conflicts or themes in this novel.
- Double-space all written or typed work; use Times New Roman 12-point font; use one-inch margins.
- In the top left-hand corner, type on four lines: Your Name, Mr. Cox, English 111, the date of the first day of class.
- On the fifth line, type this title: Summer Assignment on George Orwell's *1984*.
- Include the remainder of written work below the title, all of it double-spaced.
- For the Creative Option, if you have any parts that are not on this document (such as a drawing), make sure you include your name, Mr. Cox's name, the name of the course (English 111), and the date of the first day of class on the object or artwork.
- Be prepared to submit to Mr. Cox the assignment on the first day of class.
- Be prepared to write an essay and/or take a multiple choice and/or true-false test on *1984* the 1st or 2nd day of class.
- Please note that an electronic copy of this assignment is on the Gloucester High School website.
- If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Cox at mitchell.cox@gc.k12.va.us.