



## English 9 Honors Summer Reading 2018-2019 School Year

### Parents and Students,

Why do people read? Why do people write? Students will be exploring this question throughout next year and will begin exploring these reasons through summer reading. Specifically, through the themes of *Fahrenheit 451*, students will gain an understanding of the importance of reading, writing and enriching their brains with knowledge and, as a student in Honors English 9, students will continue to explore this idea throughout the year.

### School Year Expectations:

Your hard work in Junior High has allowed you the opportunity to take English at an accelerated level. Below is the course description about Honors English 9:

This is an accelerated and in-depth course of study. It will challenge motivated and self-directed students to excel by thinking and writing independently and creatively. Instruction will be based on the Ohio benchmarks and indicators for grade nine. Students will read a variety of texts, utilize the writing process, write for different purposes, research self-selected or assigned topics, and continue to use effective communication techniques. Summer reading is required.

The Honors expectations through the English Department at Little Miami are high and I can't wait to see you rise to the standards. You will be reading several novels over the year, at a pretty quick pace, along with writing a variety of essays and giving a few speeches and presentations. The work you complete at the honors level will establish a strong literary foundation and exercise critical thinking skills. Overall, this will be a challenging course, but extremely rewarding. As you are already aware, the skills of reading, writing and oral communication are extremely important both inside and outside the classroom. These skills will be worked on throughout the school year and will begin in the summer with the below assignment.

### Summer Reading Expectations:

This summer reading will help prepare you for the extensive English curriculum during the 2018-2019 school year. You will read the novel *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. This is dystopian fiction where Guy Montag must live in a world where, instead of reading books, all books are burned and free thought is abolished. Bradbury explores the idea of censorship, individuality and happiness.

### Required Texts for Summer Reading:

*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

"Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to burn books, which are forbidden, being the source of all discord and unhappiness. Even so, Montag is unhappy; there is discord in his marriage. Are books hidden in his house? The Mechanical Hound of the Fire Department, armed with a lethal hypodermic, escorted by helicopters, is ready to track down those dissidents who defy society to preserve and read books...Bradbury's powerful and poetic prose combines with uncanny insight into the potential of technology to create a novel which, decades on from first publication, still has the power to dazzle and shock" (Goodreads).

### Summer Reading Assignment:

1. **Read *Fahrenheit 451* and annotate important passages.** An important first step in analyzing literature is annotating the text. Basically, annotation is taking notes in your text as you read to help you keep track of your thinking. These annotations will also help you get more out of your reading and help you participate in class discussions. Annotating is a skill required the rest of your high school career and teaches you to become a reader who is critical and analytical. **You should average about 1-2 detailed, informational annotations per page.**

#### Suggestions For Annotations:

1. End of each chapter/section, write a brief 2 sentence summary
2. Highlight key words, phrases, or sentences AND write what you find significant about this part of the text in the margin. Anything you highlight with a highlighter marker is not considered annotation unless you also write out in the margin why you highlighted that part of the text.
3. Write questions, comments or connections in the margins
4. Take note of the actions, reactions of characters and write what character traits are being revealed (characterization)
5. Identify figurative language terms and write a margin note about it's purpose
6. Don't just summarize in your annotations. Make predictions, inferences and think critically about the ch

#### Essential Questions:

*These are questions which cover the entire text and ones we will be discussing in class. Annotate for evidence and take note of anything in the book which answers these questions.*

1. What is the value of being able to think freely?
2. What does it mean to be truly happy? Does knowledge contribute to it or inhibit it?
3. What claim is Bradbury making about technology and progress?

2. **You annotations will be graded on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school.** This will be one of your first grades of the year.
2. **You will take a test on the book the first week of school.**

Reading and annotating this novel will take time so work on them throughout the summer. Try your best not to procrastinate. Take June off and relax and then once July hits, start reading and annotating. There are no essay questions, quote analysis' nor chapter questions to complete over the summer. I simply just want you to read and annotate the book.

I cannot wait to get to know each of you as a student, reader and critical thinker. I think you'll find my class challenging, engaging and rewarding. If you have questions regarding the summer reading, please email me at [crosenbalm@littlemiamischools.com](mailto:crosenbalm@littlemiamischools.com). I will try to periodically check my email throughout the summer.

Have a great summer!

**Mr. Rosenbalm**