

Summer Assignment

Overview:

Welcome to Literature and Composition II! We are very excited to have you join us as we critically read, analyze, and discuss literature and the qualities of effective academic writing this year. The summer reading assignment is designed to help enrich your literary skill set as you prepare to enter the course in the Fall. Completing this task will give you familiarity with expectations for the course and provide your teacher with a sample of your reading and writing abilities.

Task:

1. Choose TWO books to read from the list provided below.
2. As you read, keep a list of interesting/valuable quotes (around 5 per book). See more detail below on the expectations for this list.
3. Type up a two-page double-spaced essay in which you answer the question: What universal lesson can be learned or taken away from reading literature? Provide textual support from one or both books you read as you write the essay.
4. Turn in (1) the **list of quotes** and (2) the **typed 1-2-page essay** by Friday, August 29th, 2025. The assignment will be uploaded digitally to Canvas.

Making a List of Valuable/Interesting Quotes:

When looking for valuable or interesting quotes consider finding quotes that:

- Make a connection: How does the quote relate to you? In what ways does the quote have meaning in your life?
- Make a prediction: What may this quote foreshadow? What will happen later in this story based on this information?
- Interpret: What does this quote mean literally? What symbols could the author be using? What is the author really trying to tell me? What is the figurative or deeper meaning of the quote?
- Ask a Question: What question does the quote raise about the story?
- Extending the Meaning: How does the quote relate to society in general? What idea/theme/motif might be illustrated by this quote, and does it apply to the real world?
- Challenge the Text: I disagree with the character/narrator/author because...

After your quote, provide an explanation for why the quote is significant using one of the categories above to help you develop your explanation.

Cite all quotes in MLA format.

Academic Integrity

NHS honors students are held to high standards of academic integrity and honesty. Please ensure that all work completed and submitted on your behalf reflects your own individual efforts without the support of a peer or artificial intelligence (A.I.) software. We aim to develop your knowledge and skills as a learner and must have you engage authentically with assignments in the course to do this. Assignments found to be in violation of the NHS honor code and FCS policy on use of artificial intelligence will be reported for disciplinary action.

Summer Reading List Options: Ensure that you select texts that you have not read previously for a class. For example, if you read 1984 in 9th honors literature last year, you would not select that text to read for summer reading. Also, be sure that you discuss the texts and content with a parent/guardian when choosing the books you will read as some have sensitive content due to the themes.

The Martian by Andy Weir

Stranded on Mars after a mission goes wrong, astronaut Mark Watney must use his ingenuity and engineering skills to survive alone. This sci-fi novel blends humor, science, and suspense in a story of resilience and human determination.

The Giver by Lois Lowry

In a seemingly perfect society without pain or choice, 12-year-old Jonas is chosen to inherit the community's memories from the Giver. As he learns the truth about his world, Jonas must decide whether to accept the status quo or seek freedom.

Animal Farm by George Orwell

A group of farm animals overthrow their human owner in hopes of creating an equal society, but their utopia quickly turns into a dictatorship. Orwell's allegorical novella critiques power, corruption, and the betrayal of revolutionary ideals.

Scythe by Neal Shusterman

In a future where death has been conquered, Scythes are tasked with population control through "gleaning." Two teens chosen as apprentices must navigate the moral complexities of their roles in this thought-provoking dystopian tale.

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

In a future where books are banned and "firemen" burn them, Guy Montag begins to question the society he serves. Bradbury's classic warns against censorship and the loss of critical thinking in a conformist world.

1984 by George Orwell

Winston Smith lives under the oppressive rule of Big Brother, where every thought is monitored and truth is manipulated. Orwell's chilling dystopia explores themes of surveillance, propaganda, and individual freedom.

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

In a technologically advanced society obsessed with pleasure and control, individuality and emotion are suppressed. Huxley's novel examines the cost of a seemingly perfect world built on conformity and consumerism.

Annihilation by Jeff VanderMeer

A team of scientists enters the mysterious Area X, a place cut off from the rest of the world and filled with strange phenomena. As they explore, reality unravels, and secrets emerge in this eerie blend of science fiction and horror.