

# College Prep English 12 Summer Reading Assignment

- Books:**
1. Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury (required)
  2. Select a novel from one of the following authors (required to select ONE)  
\*\*Selections must be a full length novel, not a collection of short stories or essays
- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| John Grisham     | Nicholas Sparks    |
| Stephen King     | Dan Brown          |
| Amy Tan          | Dean Koontz        |
| Michael Crichton | Margaret Atwood    |
| Gregory Maguire  | Barbara Kingsolver |

## **Assignments:**

- 1) For **each** book you are to keep a journal (one entry for every 3-4 chapters). The journal should contain a short summary of the chapters and your reaction to or questions about the story. **YOUR REACTIONS TO THE READING SHOULD BE THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF THE JOURNAL**—strictly summarizing the plot is not enough. Your reactions should focus on literary elements and interpretations of the novel. This journal is also a great place to keep lists of characters.

At the top of each journal page you should put the chapter numbers.

- 2) Write an essay in response to the following prompt. Your final copy is to be typed. The essay will be evaluated based on the contents of the PSSA Scoring Guide with a focus on the quality of what is written. Proof of all steps of the writing process is required and must be submitted with your final copy.
- 3) When we return to school in the fall you will be given assignments dealing with the novel you selected from the list above. Bring your reading journals for the book to class with you on the first day.
- 4) Essays are due on the first day of the semester regardless of when you have English. A reading quiz will be given during the first week of school.

## **Writing Prompt**

The novel *Fahrenheit 451* deals primarily with the issues of censorship and control. Analyze the primary ways in which the society described in the novel achieves and maintains control over its people. In what ways are these methods the same or different from our world today?

### **As you write the paper, remember to:**

- Clearly state a thesis presenting your opinion about the issues of censorship and control in the book and how these methods compare or contrast from those used in our world today
- Use specific facts from the novel as well as your observations about our world today to support your ideas
- Present your ideas in a clear and logical fashion
- Use a variety of words and well-constructed sentences
- Use proper grammar, punctuation and spelling
- Submit proof of all steps in the writing process

## Summer Reading 2009-10 School Year

### General Requirements

- *Students are responsible for securing reading material* from the public library, online, or in local book stores. You may also want to check out used book stores, garage sales, and the used book sale hosted by the Public Library System. Sharing copies with friends is also a good idea!
- *Students will write an essay* on a specific topic as assigned by the grade level teacher.
- *Typed essays are due on the first day of the fall semester for ALL students* regardless of the semester English is scheduled. EXCEPT CP English 9 classes. Follow the directions on the assignment paper.
- *Students are required to take a comprehension/analysis test* on the reading during the first week of the fall semester (test dates will be announced at the start of the school year).
- Students enrolled in English during second semester must report to the grade level teacher at a designated time to take the test. Listen to homeroom announcements for details.
- Summer reading assignments will count toward the first nine week grading period of the semester.
- ***There are no deadline extensions granted for any reason.*** All students must meet the deadlines required. **There are no extensions granted for missing the quiz dates.**

### Academic Honesty

We encourage you to do some background research on the books/plays assigned and the author and the time period the work was written. Although *Cliff's Notes*, *Spark Notes* and other study materials are beneficial as a **supplement** to the actual reading of the text, they are **not endorsed as a method of replacement for the text itself**. The internet has some great resources to help you understand the works presented. Make use of the library and sources on the internet if you have difficulty with the reading. Study groups and discussions with your friends are also helpful. Please be aware that some teachers do **not** have access to district e-mail over the summer and may be unable to address questions via e-mail.

### Reading Journals

Students have found it beneficial to keep a reading log where your thoughts on the plot, character, themes, style of writing etc. can be recorded. Some classes will require you to do additional work with the reading during the semester. It would be helpful to have a journal to refer to as a refresher of the details of the book. It is also helpful to record your questions about the reading in a journal. Doing so will help you present intelligent questions to your class when you return.