

**English I Honors (Rising 9th Grade Only!)
Dr. Van Gunten
Summer Reading Assignments 2015**

Congratulations on successfully completing another school year! In preparation for the next school year, we want you to continue to enrich your reading and writing skills over the summer. Here are descriptions of the summer reading books and required assignments that accompany them.

REQUIRED:

Ernest Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea*. Santiago, an old Cuban fisherman who has not caught a fish for eighty-four days, goes far out to sea in his skiff alone because the young boy Manolin, who has fished with him and served him in the past, is prevented from continuing to do so by his parents, who are convinced that the old man has *salao*, bad luck. Santiago kills a giant marlin after fighting it for three days, lashes it alongside his skiff, and sails for home only to have his fish attacked by sharks during the night and devoured despite the old man's valiant efforts to kill them or drive them away. The morning after Santiago's return, Manolin finds the old man sleeping in his palm shack, cries, brings him coffee, and pledges to replace lost equipment and to fish with him again, for there is much that he can learn. When the boy leaves, the old man is dreaming of lions on a beach which he saw in Africa in his youth from a square-rigged ship.

REQUIRED: CHOOSE *ONE* OF THE FOLLOWING:

Arthur C. Clarke, *Childhood's End*. How will the world end? In *Childhood's End*, instead of a nuclear holocaust, there is a Golden Age, during which all world crises will be resolved and all social problems will evaporate, followed by a final cataclysm triggered by a source from which we least expect it. The beginning of the end is heralded by the Overlords, mysterious aliens in gigantic silver ships from an unknown planet. Led by the Supervisor, Karellen, these godlike creatures--super intelligent and seemingly all powerful--are heard, but not seen, by humans, at least not for their first decades on Earth. During that period they speak directly to the Earth's population only once--to announce that they are now in charge. Although the Overlords' reforms do benefit humanity, not all people take kindly to having peace and happiness imposed on them by beings they cannot see and whose motives they cannot deduce.

Ally Condie, *Matched*. In the Society, officials decide everything. Whom you love. Where you work. When you die. Cassia has always trusted their choices. It's hardly any price to pay for a long life, the perfect job, the ideal mate. So when her best friend appears on the Matching screen, Cassia knows with complete certainty that he is the one . . . until she sees another face flash for an instant before the screen fades to black. Now Cassia is faced with impossible choices: between Xander and Ky, between the only life she's known and a path no one else has ever dared follow, between perfection and passion.

ASSIGNMENT: Complete the following Reading-Response questions for both of your books. Do not just give the bare minimum for answers--I want to read your thoughts and explanations. Therefore, go beyond simply answering them. Pay particular attention to the due date (**the very first day of school**).

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER, AND ENJOY YOUR READING!

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Reading-Response Questions for Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*:

"I tried to make a real old man, a real boy, a real sea and a real fish and real sharks. But if I made them good and true enough they would mean many things."

--Ernest Hemingway

Answer the following on separate paper as fully as possible. Please write neatly (or type) in complete sentences and paragraphs.

1. What is suggested when Manolin says to Santiago that his father "hasn't much faith" but that he, himself, "would like to serve in some way"? Does this offer of Manolin's asking to throw the "cast net" seem to echo the Bible? Does it indicate the boy's respect for Santiago? Why do you think Santiago is so worthy of Manolin's respect?
2. Why is the boy so important to Santiago? Despite his bad luck, Santiago's hope and confidence remain, even "freshening as when the breeze rises" as the boy helps him prepare for his next fishing trip. What does this statement indicate about the role Manolin plays in Santiago's life?
3. Like other Hemingway characters, Santiago is very much alone, "beyond all people in the world"; yet he says, "No man was ever alone on the sea." Why not? Does Santiago feel strengthened and sustained by the creatures and universe around him in any way? How might his dreams of the lions or reflections about his earlier strength support him?
4. Although determined to kill the fish, Santiago says that he loves and respects it, and on the third day of his struggle he says, "Never have I seen a greater, or more beautiful, or a calmer or more noble thing than you, brother. Come on and kill me. I do not care who kills who." How would you say that Santiago's fight with the fish defines his character?
5. How does the story of Santiago reflect two key ideas prevalent in Hemingway's fiction: "the undefeated" and "winner take nothing"? Santiago says, "A man can be destroyed but not defeated." What might he mean? Do you agree with him? Why or why not? Is Hemingway's most famous novel merely Santiago's story, or is it somehow our story also? Explain.

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Reading-Response Questions for Arthur C. Clarke's *Childhood's End*:

Answer the following on separate paper as completely and accurately as possible. Please write neatly (or type) in complete sentences and paragraphs.

1. Why will the Overlords "always envy" the human race? What does that suggest about them? What does it suggest about us?
2. Do you think Jan is happy that he has fulfilled his dream of seeing the Overlords' home planet? Why or why not? Would you wish to? What do you think your response to seeing it might be?
3. Might Karellen have known that Jan would be a stowaway on an Overlord supply ship and, if so, why doesn't he stop Jan from carrying out his plot? Why do you believe that Jan isn't punished for his actions?
4. How do you feel about the idea of a World Federation? How might we benefit from a "One World" governmental system? Would there be drawbacks to such a plan? Could such a plan work if there were no Overlords on Earth to enforce it?
5. How do you envision the world in the late 21st-early 22nd Centuries, in the time perhaps of your children's children's children? Will the world still exist? Will cures be found for cancer, the common cold, and other diseases now called incurable? Will war, poverty, and violent crime be eliminated, or will these problems grow worse? Will money still be in use? Consider the future you hope (or fear) will be, and briefly describe your vision of life on earth a century from now.

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Reading-Response Questions for Ally Condie's *Matched*

Answer the following questions fully and thoughtfully in complete sentences and paragraphs. Please type your responses, or write them neatly on your own paper.

Your responses are due **the very first day of class**.

1. In Cassia's world, individuals are only allowed a single artifact, a treasure from the past. What can readers learn about Cassia's world from the understanding that the Society only allows citizens one object from the past? If you were asked to select a single item to pass down to another generation, what would it be, and why?
2. Consider the three emergency tablets each member of the Society is required to carry with them at all times. What purpose do they serve? Why is Cassia encouraged to never take the green tablet? Consider the lack of effectiveness the tablets have on both Xander and Ky. In your opinion, does this put them at an advantage? How?
3. In *Matched*, each member of the Society is assigned a job. Cassia is a data sorter, her mother works at the Arboretum, and her father sorts relics of the past. Consider your personal strengths. What role might you play in such a community? What problems might arise from being given a job based only on your strengths? In your opinion, are there other personal attributes that are equally important? What are they?
4. Throughout the course of the novel, Cassia, Xander, and Ky learn that the world as they know it might never be the same. In what ways will it be better and / or worse for them?
5. Describe Cassia. What makes her such a memorable character? Is she the type of person you would want to befriend? Why or why not?