

English I Honors
Mrs. Boland
Summer Reading Choices and Assignments 2016

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 the assignments that accompany them.

REQUIRED:

Ernest Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea*. One of Hemingway's most enduring works. Told in a language of great simplicity and power, it is the story of an old Cuban fisherman, down on his luck, and his supreme ordeal--a relentless, agonizing battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream. Hemingway modernizes the classic theme of courage in the face of defeat, of personal triumph won from loss. Written in 1952, this hugely successful novella confirmed Hemingway's power and presence in the literary world and played a large part in his winning the 1954 Nobel Prize for literature.

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. Who 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 study questions for the above books. Those questions are attached. 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 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 completely and accurately as possible. Please write neatly (or type) in complete sentences. Page numbers are from the Scribner's trade paperback edition.

A. An Unlucky Boat (pp. 9-25)

01. What is the nature of the relationship between Santiago and the boy Manolin? What do their conversations reveal about both characters?
02. What is Santiago's situation as the story opens? What do we learn about his past? Why is he respected by some people yet pitied by others?
03. How does Santiago feel about himself? What things are important to him? How does he face the hardships of life?
04. Why does Santiago admire "the great DiMaggio"? Why does he dream of lions on the beaches?

B. The Truly Big Fish (pp. 25-95)

05. On the first day, which details from the story tell us that Santiago is undergoing a tremendously difficult experience? Which words, thoughts, and actions reveal Santiago's attitude toward his ordeal?
06. What is Santiago's attitude toward nature, and how can you tell?
07. On the second day, why does the sight of the giant marlin inspire Santiago? What actions does he take to prevent losing the fish?
08. On the night of the second day, how does Santiago know he has won the battle? Is the marlin in any way like Santiago himself?

C. Destroyed But Not Defeated (pp. 95-127)

09. How does Santiago's luck begin to run out? Why is it a hopeless battle which he fights?
10. Why does Santiago feel he is to blame for what happened? What is the reaction of the other fishermen to what Santiago has accomplished?
11. What change does Manolin undergo by the end of the story? Why is his change important?
12. What is significant about the female tourist's ignorant remark concerning the marlin's skeleton?
13. Why can Santiago be considered a hero? How has he been "destroyed, but not defeated"?
14. What type of attitude toward life does Santiago represent? What do you think of that attitude?
15. Which elements in the story suggest a parallel between Santiago and Christ?

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Reading 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.

01. Why does Wainwright oppose the Overlords' plan for a "World Federation"?
02. Why would the Overlords choose a human spokesperson--the Secretary-General of the United Nations--instead of representing themselves?
03. Why is Stormgren kidnapped?
04. What ideas and events prompt Stormgren to try to expose the Overlords' identity?
05. After Stormgren sees Karellen, why does he tell the scientist Duval--and, thirty years later, the reporter--that he had seen nothing?
06. Since the people of Earth in the 21st Century have lived their whole lives under the control of the Overlords, why does their first sight of the Overlords terrify them?
07. What are the possible reasons for Rashaverak's and Karellen's special interest in Rupert's game? Why is Jan so interested in the results?
08. In a world practically free of crime, unemployment, hunger, and filled with all manner of entertainment, what purpose does a colony like New Athens serve?
09. Why is George concerned, rather than merely grateful, that the Overlords have saved Jeffrey from the wave?
10. Why will the Overlords "always envy" the human race?
11. How does Jan manage to stay young although he's been away from Earth for eighty years?
12. Do you think Jan is happy that he has fulfilled his dream of seeing the Overlords' home planet? Why or why not?
13. 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 isn't Jan punished for his actions?
14. 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?
15. 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 Questions for Ally Condie's *Matched*

Answer the following questions fully and thoughtfully in complete sentences. 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? Explain.
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? Explain.
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? Explain.
4. What is Cassia's impression of the official supervising her Matching? How does Cassia's opinion of her change through the course of the novel? In what ways is the shift in her opinion indicative of her overall understanding of the workings of the Society?
5. 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 or worse for them? What experience(s) have you had that reshaped your life? In what ways have you changed due to this incident?
6. Describe Cassia. What makes her a dynamic character? Is she the type of person you would want to befriend? Why or why not? Explain.