

English II Summer Reading

This year in English, we will study a variety of works of literature with the emphasis on the role of storytelling. This year we will continue our conversations began last year in works like *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Odyssey*, and *The Iliad* with works like *Julius Caesar* and *The Aeneid*. To begin this year, you will need to prepare yourself for an in-class essay as a pretest. **I do not want an essay written outside of class.** You will have two days of class discussion, where you are expected to contribute information; two days of pre-writing, and three days in class to complete your first draft. **You are expected to annotate your books.** You need to mark at least one use of figurative language, imagery, interesting diction, detail, and syntax per chapter. Be sure to keep your topic in mind when you are reading the book so you already have your in text citations ready.

Books:

Looking for Alaska - John Green

Slaughterhouse Five - Kurt Vonnegut

Choose **ONE** of the following paper topics:

A. Each book contains characters that question their roles in their society. Choosing one character from each book, discuss what the character's role was in their society, the role of the society in the character's life, and what causes the conflict between the character's morals and his society. Remember, this is a comparative essay, so you are going to need to spend each paragraph discussing how **both** these characters relate to **both** of their books.

B. All of the authors wrote these books intending to warn their readers against a mistake in their friends, time period, or society. What mistake do two of the authors try to warn their readers against? In your paper, explain three reasons why the authors feel society is threatened. (If you feel like the authors would disagree with each other on the warning you are considering discussing, tell why one author considers this to be a mistake, while the other would consider it to be a security measure.)

C. Each book uses symbols of expectations and responsibility. Find symbols from each book that discuss elements of society that compares with another symbol in the other book; for example, if a labyrinth symbolizes a pointless struggle in one book, what would symbolizes a pointless struggle in the other book? Each paragraph needs a different theme shown in both books.

These books raise problematic questions about our society. For example, what is the role of literature? What is the difference between storytelling and lies? This project not only will act as a pre-test to show you what I look for in your essays, but it also allows us to explore this question on our own to prepare for a fantastic year ahead.

Have a great summer!

Ms. Smith

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