

AP Literature Summer Reading Assignment

Mrs. Patmor

2023-2024 Academic Year

Please contact Jaime Patmor, AP Literature instructor at jpatmor@cmhs-sarasota.org or Tom Scheip, English Department Chair with any questions at Tscheip@cmhs-sarasota.org

Due: Essay due any time before school begins; novel, read, highlight/annotate and bring to class on Wednesday, August 9th.

Please read a summary of the book before purchasing the text. Assignment has been vetted by the English Department. For your reference, book reviews for parents can be found at www.commonensemedia.org.

Objective: Welcome to AP Literature. Below you will find your assignment which will be beneficial for you when it comes to writing your FRQ3 as well as Sophistication support for all exam formats. As of now, you probably have no idea what any of those entail. We will learn to analyze literature from the perspective of a Literature Professor and carefully craft cunning composition commentary to better prepare ourselves for the AP Lit Exam in May of 2024. I'm looking forward to an incredible 2023-2024 school year.

The novel below will be used for a **Diagnostic Formative Multiple Choice Assessment and Essay to start the school year.**

Summer Reading Assignment: College Essay 40 Points; highlighting/annotating *Brave New World* 60 Points

1. Compose/type a brilliant response to one of the following 2023-2024 Common Application college essay topic (**400-650 words is the suggested length; 4-6 paragraphs**): Upload to our Canvas course any time over the summer.

-The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

-Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?

-Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?

2. **Brave New World-Aldous Huxley- purchase a physical copy and read** (Paperback \$11 on Amazon)

As you read, please **highlight/underline and write notes in the margins** related to any specific language, character choices, events, and quotes of interest. Details on the following pages.

You may wish to view Canvas as I will also post discussion questions about the Chapters throughout the summer. This is a great way to meet your classmates and discuss the book as you navigate through the reading. After you post a response, you will be able to view responses by some of your classmates for senior year

3. **How to Read Literature like a Professor-Thomas C Foster-purchase a physical copy** (Paperback on Amazon for \$9). Open the table of contents, and choose 2 chapters that connect to the book *Brave New World*. Read those chapters so we can discuss them in August; however, this is **NOT due** on the first day of class. We will use this book in early August and throughout the year.

This document includes

1. An overview of annotation practices
2. Options and suggestions for how to annotate your text
3. A list of topics specific to your novel that you should make note of as you read
4. Notes on what activities you will be asked to do in relation to the summer novel when school begins
5. A brief biography of the novel's author

Annotation Guide:

Please note that this is a general guide that can be adapted to suit your own needs or the specific text that you are reading. You should start with the suggestions on this guide, then you can adapt your annotation style as you see fit.

1. **Annotating a text:** Annotation refers to marking up your text by physically writing on it, using sticky notes or other markers, and/or taking notes as you read. Annotation is a key skill to learn as you develop into a sophisticated critical reader, writer, and thinker; it is also an important skill that will help you succeed in college classes. The purpose of annotation is to keep a record of your thoughts and questions as you read. This is especially useful to you as you complete your summer reading, as you will read the novel outside of class and will need to retain your knowledge of the text into the first quarter of the academic year. The following is a suggested annotation guide for each method listed above.

a. **Marking up the text: This is the recommended method for annotating.** If you use this method, you will physically write in and on your book as you read.

Differentiate your annotations as follows:

1. Underline key lines and/or passages. An alternative annotation would be to place a star in the margin next to key lines/passages. The purpose of underlining or marking key passages with a star to help you remember where to find the most significant portions of the text. Passages may be significant because they highlight key plot events, point out important qualities of the main characters, or emphasize central themes or motifs of the work, which are essential to analyzing the text's meaning. In addition to underlining or marking with a star, it is best to record your thoughts in the margins or in a separate journal so you can remember what you thought was important about the passages.

2. Write a question mark in the margin next to passages or lines that you find confusing or that you have questions about. It is best to write out your question in the margins or in a separate journal so that you can remember what confused you about the passage.
3. Circle unknown words; look up the new words as you read so that you can both better understand the text and build your vocabulary. Write the definition in your book or in a separate journal. Even if you are slightly unsure of a word's meaning, it's a good idea to look up the word to clarify the meaning.
4. Develop a system of annotations specifically related to your text to help you keep track of specific issues/characters/themes as you read. For example, if the protagonist is named Joe, you might write a "J" next to the passages in the text that describe his character or tell us something important about his character. See more specific suggestions for these types of annotations below, in the annotation guidelines for *The Woman Warrior*.
5. To reiterate point 1, make sure that you go beyond simply highlighting or underlining; you want to be able to remember WHY you marked these lines when you go back into the text to write your essay or participate in class discussions and activities. Please note that when I give you grades for annotating a text, those that only underline/highlight without making additional notes will earn only partial credit.

b. Sticky note annotation: If you prefer not to write on your text or you are using a borrowed copy of a text, you may wish to use a set of sticky notes to annotate your text. For example, you might use the Post-It brand flags (usually four or five different colors). You can decide what color to assign to each detail you want to annotate. You can also write very small, short notes on these skinny sticky note flags, or you may use bigger sticky notes that have more room for your writing. See the more detailed instructions for annotations above.

1. Place a blue sticky note next to key passages.
2. Place an orange sticky note and write a question mark on the notes when you come across a passage that is confusing or about which you have questions. You could also write more detailed versions of your questions in a separate journal. Again, it's very important that you record your thoughts and ideas so you can remember why you are noting these lines or passages.
3. Place a yellow sticky note near unknown or unfamiliar words. Write the definition on the sticky note or in a separate journal.
4. Use the remaining colors to annotate other details about the text (characters, themes, etc.). You might want to assign a different color to each theme or character, or you may want to use the same color but write a short annotation.

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley, published in 1932

Genre: dystopian social science fiction

Aldous Huxley's profoundly important classic of world literature, *Brave New World* is a searching vision of an unequal, technologically-advanced future where humans are genetically bred, socially indoctrinated, and pharmaceutically anesthetized to passively uphold an authoritarian ruling order—all at the cost of our freedom, full humanity, and perhaps also our souls. “A genius [who] who spent his life decrying the onward march of the Machine” (*The New Yorker*), Huxley was a man of incomparable talents: equally an artist, a spiritual seeker, and one of history’s keenest observers of human nature and civilization. *Brave New World*, his masterpiece, has enthralled and terrified millions of readers, and retains its urgent relevance to this day as both a warning to be heeded as we head into tomorrow and as thought-provoking, satisfying work of literature. Written in the shadow of the rise of fascism during the 1930s, *Brave New World* likewise speaks to a 21st-century world dominated by mass-entertainment, technology, medicine and pharmaceuticals, the arts of persuasion, and hidden influences.

Brave New World

THEMES

When we return to class, we will focus on a few key themes of this text. Be sure to consider these as you read, while you annotate, and after you complete the novel:

1. Dystopia and Totalitarianism (*Brave New World* envisions a frightful future totalitarian society in which individual liberty has been usurped by an all-powerful state)
2. Technology and Control
3. The Cost of Happiness
4. Industrialism and Consumption
5. Individual vs. Society
6. Gender roles and experiences/expectations of women
7. Personal voice (the mixture of vocabulary, tone, point of view, and syntax that makes phrases, sentences, and paragraphs flow in a particular manner. Note the differences in voice of the narrator and those of individual characters; why/how do they sound different? How do their use of language reflect personality?)
8. Writing style and techniques used to convey the themes listed above

Upcoming Activities

(you will complete all of these once school begins and **are NOT due** on the first day of class):

1. Class discussions of characters, contexts, plot, themes, and writing style
2. Rhetorical and literary analysis including close reading practice
3. Analytical essay on one of the assigned themes (see above) from the text, which discusses how that theme is dealt with in the text as a whole.

About the Author:



Aldous Leonard Huxley (26 July 1894 – 22 November 1963) was an English writer and philosopher. He wrote nearly 50 books—both novels and non-fiction works—as well a wide-ranging essays, narratives, and poems.

Born into the prominent Huxley family, he graduated from Balliol College, Oxford, with an undergraduate degree in English literature. Early in his career, he published short stories and poetry and edited the literary magazine *Oxford Poetry*, before going on to publish travel writing, satire, and screenplays. He spent the latter part of his life in the United States, living in Los Angeles from 1937 until his death. By the end of his life, Huxley was widely acknowledged as one of the foremost intellectuals of his time. He was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature nine times and was elected Companion of Literature by the Royal Society of Literature in 1962.

Huxley was a pacifist. He grew interested in philosophical mysticism and universalism, addressing these subjects with works such as *The Perennial Philosophy* (1945)—which illustrates commonalities between Western and Eastern mysticism—and *The Doors of Perception* (1954)—which interprets his own psychedelic experience with mescaline. In his most famous novel *Brave New World* (1932) and his final novel *Island* (1962), he presented his vision of dystopia and utopia, respectively.