**AP Literature Summer Reading Assignment 2024-2025**

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For your summer assignment, you will need two novels (in print):

*Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley

*The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde

On or near the first day of school, expect to have an assessment on *Brave New World* and *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Although you will not be assessed on annotations, it is still expected that you annotate as you read, marking/highlighting important passages and language that develop the themes. You may also choose to annotate using sticky notes. Bring both books to school.

**Part One: *Brave New World***

This is a dystopian novel, so some situations may seem disturbing or bizarre but play a key role in the themes of the novel. As this course features college-level work, literature studied may feature mature subject matter. *Brave New World* is a cautionary tale in which the government promotes drug use and promiscuity; these topics are presented in a negative light to the reader.

When you finish reading *Brave New World,* complete one of the following essays, handwritten in your composition notebook. You will be using this notebook in class, and you may purchase either a composition notebook (black and white speckled type) or a spiral notebook. Occasionally, I will collect notebooks; so, make sure you have a notebook dedicated just to this class. Your handwritten essay should demonstrate an original, comprehensive, and organized interpretation of the novel and its themes. It should incorporate textual evidence (MLA) from the novel as support for your analysis. A minimum of two pages (one side = one page) in length is a suitable target. Choose ONE of the prompts below.

1. Recently a student was frustrated with the seemingly picky fine points of punctuation. He said that it wasn’t really important. He went on to say that he felt the world would be a much better place if people didn’t have to think very much but could just enjoy life. How would you respond to him using *Brave New World* as support?

2. In the twentieth century, many novels were written warning of the dangers of misusing scientific knowledge or of carrying such knowledge to extremes. In a well-organized essay, discuss how Aldous Huxley’s novel could be considered such a cautionary work.

3. Max Frisch (1911-1991) wrote “Technology {gives us} the knack of so arranging the world that we don’t have to experience it.” In a well-organized essay, defend, challenge, or qualify this assertion about technology. Include evidence from your reading, experience, or observation to support your position.

4. In some novels, the author focuses more on the internal turmoil of a character than on the character’s external conflicts in order to explore philosophical questions and develop the novel’s themes. Choose one such character who faces internal conflicts and explain how those conflicts serve to develop the novel’s themes and ideas.

**Part Two: *The Picture of Dorian Gray***

Reader Response Guidelines

There are twenty chapters in this novel. Choose ten and keep a Reader Response Log following the directions below. For each of the ten chapters you choose, respond in two roles, i.e. straight talker/judge or judge/artist, etc. When finished, you will have collected twenty responses for your log. Use your composition notebook for your responses. Organize with headings, etc.

* Choose passages from the novel to respond to. Record chapter and page number (s) only.
* Respond to the passages in your own words, using the reader response roles listed below.
* Write as much as you can but no fewer than four sentences.
* You will do this for ten chapters (two roles each chapter) = 20 responses.

Reader Response Roles:

* Straight Talker: Speak directly to a character and “give your two cent’s worth.” If you could stop the action at a particular point, what would you say?
* Judge: Evaluate an action or a decision by a character or characters. Do you feel a wise or a poor decision has been made? Why? What decision would you prefer to have been made? Why?
* Artist: What visual images come to mind as you read the story? Draw those images. Write also what your visual image means or represents in the story.
* Palm Reader: What has occurred that you consider foreshadowing? What do you believe will occur in the future? Why?

**WHAT YOU NEED THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS: YOUR NOVELS AND COMPOSITION OR SPIRAL NOTEBOOK WITH COMPLETED ASSIGNMENTS.**

**1. *Brave New World* (read and annotated) with your completed essay**

**2. *The Picture of Doran Gray* (read and annotated) with your reading responses**

**All work should be handwritten and in your composition or spiral notebook for AP English III. Use MLA for citations. Please make sure your work is original (no ai / plagiarism).**

**In addition to the one-subject composition or spiral notebook mentioned above, you will need a three-ring binder with looseleaf notebook paper, pencils and pens.**

**I will check my email periodically during summer break if you have any questions or concerns. Enjoy your summer.**