

Name: _____ Date: _____

Honors English 4
Ms. Brown
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Summer Reading Assignment

Required Books

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
Grendel by John Gardner

You will need to complete the assignment for each book

For each book **Read with a pencil**, that is, underline or highlight passages you feel are important or worth remembering. Get in the habit of writing in the margins. This not only involves you in the text, but it serves as a study guide when you review the book. You will need to review, as you will be tested over the novel at the start of the school year. Be familiar with the plot, characters, themes, terms, and structure of the work. Think about what makes a hero, consider the book in terms of genre, style, and language, and apply analytical thinking to the literary elements you encounter. Take notes as you read – and reread.

You will also need to complete the LDC writing task for the summer reading.

Task 6: What is gender? How do issues of gender influence our daily lives? How do gender issues permeate different cultures? After reading *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood and *Grendel* by John Gardner, write a four paragraph essay that discusses traditional gender roles and evaluates the main characters roles within their respective societies. Be sure to support your position with evidence from the texts.
(Argumentation/Evaluation)