

## Pre-AP English II Summer Reading Assignment

For this assignment, you must select one book from each of the lists below (one classic and one recent fiction). After reading two novels, please read and complete the writing assignment described at the bottom of this sheet.

### Classics:

1. *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley
2. *1984* by George Orwell
3. *Anthem* by Ayn Rand
4. *Animal Farm* by George Orwell

### Recent Fiction:

1. *The Maze Runner*, *The Scorch Trials*, or *The Death Cure* by James Dashner\*
2. *Matched*, *Crossed* or *Reached* by Ally Condie\*\*
3. *Little Brother* by Cory Doctorow
4. *Delirium*, *Pandemonium*, or *Requiem* by Lauren Oliver\*\*\*

\*Special Note: *The Scorch Trials* and *The Death Cure* are the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> books in *The Maze Runner* trilogy, so if you are interested in reading *The Scorch Trials* or *The Death Cure*, we would advise you to read *The Maze Runner* first.

\*\**Crossed* and *Reached* are the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> books in the *Matched* series, so if you are interested in reading either of these novels, it would be helpful to first read (or have read) *Matched*.

\*\*\**Pandemonium* and *Requiem* are the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> books in the *Delirium* series, so if you are interested in reading either of these novels, it would be helpful to first read (or have read) *Delirium*.

You are responsible for securing copies of these books to read. You may find copies of these books at the Timberland or public libraries, or you may purchase the books through Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, or other book stores/department stores. You are advised to locate the books early; if you wait until late in the summer to obtain the books, you may find yourself with insufficient time to complete this assignment.

### Assignment Directions:

1. Choose two novels from the lists above (one classic, one from recent fiction) and read both of these novels PRIOR to the first day of school.
2. Create a dialectical journal for each novel that includes 20 entries. (Each dialectical journal should include 20 entries about that specific novel. (These will be due the first day of school).)
3. Your completed assignment must be TYPED. No handwritten assignments will be accepted for credit.
4. This assignment must be completed *independently*. Your responses should be in your own words and should not be copied from other sources or other students. Assignments that do not reflect an individual student's own work will be considered academic dishonesty, and consequences will be handled according to the student code of conduct.

### To create a dialectical journal:

- 1.) Draw a line down the middle of the paper, making two columns.
- 2.) The left column is used for passages (direct quotations) from the text and page numbers. Look for quotes that support a variety of the dystopian characteristics listed below. For example, you might record quotes that demonstrate the following:

#### Characteristics of a Dystopian Society

- Propaganda is used to control the citizens of society.
- Information, independent thought, and freedom are restricted.
- A figurehead or concept is worshipped by the citizens of the society.
- Citizens are perceived to be under constant surveillance.
- Citizens have a fear of the outside world.
- Citizens live in a dehumanized state.
- The natural world is banished and distrusted.
- Citizens conform to uniform expectations. Individuality and dissent are bad.
- The society is an illusion of a perfect utopian world.

#### Types of Dystopian Controls

Most dystopian works present a world in which oppressive societal control and the illusion of a perfect society are maintained through one or more of the following types of controls:

- Corporate control: One or more large corporations control society through products, advertising, and/or the media. Examples include *Minority Report* and *Running Man*.
- Bureaucratic control: Society is controlled by a mindless bureaucracy through a tangle of red tape, relentless regulations, and incompetent government officials. Examples in film include *Brazil*.
- Technological control: Society is controlled by technology—through computers, robots, and/or scientific means. Examples include *The Matrix*, *The Terminator*, and *I, Robot*.
- Philosophical/religious control: Society is controlled by philosophical or religious ideology often enforced through a dictatorship or theocratic government.

#### The Dystopian Protagonist

- often feels trapped and is struggling to escape.
- questions the existing social and political systems.
- believes or feels that something is terribly wrong with the society in which he or she lives.
- helps the audience recognize the negative aspects of the dystopian world

- 3.) The right column is used for commenting on/explaining your quotes in the left column. The comments in the right-hand column should explain which characteristic of dystopian societies is being illustrated in the quote you selected and should discuss how this particular characteristic impacts the society depicted in the novel.
- Please Note: You **MUST** select quotes that demonstrate a variety of the dystopian characteristics listed above (general characteristics, types of governmental controls, and characteristics of dystopian protagonists).
  - Please be sure to provide thorough explanations, and make sure that your explanations are written in complete sentences.

#### Sample Dialectical Journal Entries: from *The Hunger Games*

<p><u>Quote #1:</u> "The Capitol twinkles like a vast field of fireflies." (p. 80)</p>	<p><u>Comment/Explanation:</u> This quote is just one example of how the society in <i>The Hunger Games</i> is an illusion of a perfect utopian world. The Capitol is viewed as a perfect, sparkling image of everything that is right with the world. However, the Capitol is simply a superficial front covering up the depravity and inhumane conditions that the majority of the citizens are experiencing.</p>
<p><u>Quote #2:</u> "I could be shot on a daily basis for hunting, but the appetites of those in charge protect me." (p. 17)</p>	<p><u>Comment/Explanation:</u> I feel that this particular quote illustrates how a dystopian protagonist helps the audience recognize the negative aspects of the dystopian society. In this quote, Katniss is illustrating that, despite the government's attempts to make it seem like everything is perfect, most people are starving and are risking their lives to make sure that they and their loved ones can survive.</p>

- 4.) During the first week of school, be prepared to discuss your novel utilizing the quotes and dystopian characteristics you have identified in your dialectical journal.