

Senior Summer Reading Assignments 2019-20

ALL SENIOR ENGLISH STUDENTS (AP Lit and Brit Lit) will read the same 2 required books:

1984 by George Orwell
Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

Please note: these are NOT AR Books. You will NOT take an AR test on them.

You must read them carefully, annotating each book as you read. Annotations should show close reading of the novel and include commentary as well as underling/circling, etc.

You must answer the following questions about each book and be prepared to turn them in on turnitin.com on the due dates listed below. You can expect quizzes and tests over each book.

If you do not know what to write for annotations, you might want to read the questions below before reading and mark passages that will help you write or responses. Also, you might want to use the SQuEAL method:

- **Summary:** explain what is happening in the story. You might also explain the **significance** of these events, especially in later chapter when the picture becomes more clear.
- **Questions:** ask a specific question about the story or about why an author wrote it the way he/she did.
- **Emotions:** tell how the events in the story make you feel. Do you think the character is making good choices?
- **Analysis:** discuss the theme, point of view, setting, conflict, or literary devices such as tone, diction, imagery, syntax, overall writing style.
- **Links:** tell how events in the story relate to your life or the lives of people you have heard of or to characters in other books, plays, movies, or tv shows.

If you have questions over the summer about this assignment, feel free to contact me at andrew.katzer@fpdmacon.org.

SUMMER READING QUESTIONS—Respond to each of the following items. Responses should be typed in 12-point Times New Roman or Calibri font and double spaced. Each response should be ¾ to 1 page and should include at least one quote from the novel for support.

1984 by George Orwell (questions and annotated book due Friday, August 9)

1. Throughout the novel, the Party uses Newspeak to control its members. Do you think it is possible to control people by adding or subtracting certain words from a language? Do words have importance to you personally? Explain your answer.
2. There are various examples throughout the novel of the Party changing history or entirely wiping out people's memories? Why do they do this? Why should historical facts and memories be important and valuable to you?
3. How does the Party use fear to manipulate its members? How do people feel knowing Big Brother is always watching them? How do you feel knowing God is watching you? Is it a fearful feeling or a comforting one? How do God's methods of working in your life differ from Big Brother's influence in the lives of Party members?
4. Take one of the Party slogans (War is Peace, Freedom is Slavery, Ignorance is Strength) from *1984* and explain how it is meant to affect the people of Oceania. Then explain how it is similar to something specific you see happening in our culture today.

5. [SPOILER] Towards the end of the novel, O'Brien asks Winston:

"Do you believe in God, Winston?"

"No."

"Then what is it, this principle that will defeat us?"

"I don't know. The spirit of Man."

Is the "Spirit of Man" enough to defeat the Party? Why or why not? Is the "Spirit of Man" enough for you to overcome obstacles in your own life? Why or why not?

6. What, in your opinion, are the worst parts of the world created in 1984? Would God allow a world like the one in 1984 to exist, or would He step in and overthrow such a culture? Would living in a world like the one in 1984 change your beliefs? Explain your answer.

***Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe (questions and annotated book due Friday, August 16)**

1. Analyze the relationship between Okonkwo and his father and Okonkwo and his son as it is presented in the early chapters. Were his feelings and fears about his father and son realistic? Were his actions toward them based on traits each man demonstrated or only on Okonkwo's fears?

2. Look back at chapters 4-7 specifically. What is Okonkwo's primary way of relating to others? What emotion describes how Okonkwo communicates with people? Read Ephesians 4:1-3, 25-32 and Colossians 3:1-17. Compare Okonkwo's attitude with these verses. Is his attitude mentioned?

3. [SPOILER for ch. 7 & 8] Compare/contrast the reactions of Nwoye, Okonkwo, and Obierika to the killing of Ikemefuna. Do you think Ikemefuna's death was justified, or do you think it was wrong? Explain.

4. Give examples of the "great passion" that has ruled Okonkwo's life. Why does this passion lead him to despair? Read Matthew 6:19-33, Luke 12:13-34, and Hebrews 12:2-3. What do these verses say should be the priority or "great passion" in our lives?

5. What kinds of people in the novel are drawn to the missionaries and their church? What two groups in particular are drawn to the new religion? Why do you think these people are drawn to Christianity? What draws Nwoye in particular to the church?

6. When Jesus was asked what is the most important commandment, how did he respond in Mark 12:28-34? Reverend Smith and the District Commander claim to be Christians/ How would things have been different if they had followed the commandments Jesus described as the most important? Could they have won over Okonkwo? Why or why not?