

WELCOME TO JUNIOR AP ENGLISH!! I'm looking forward to getting to know all of you; based on your letters, I expect we'll have a great year together! This is your summer reading assignment...pace yourself so that you don't spend the last two weeks of your vacation frantically reading. **1984** by **George Orwell** offers a frightening glimpse at a future society controlled by "Big Brother"; **The Kite Runner** by **Khaled Hosseini** is a modern novel based a young man's experience growing up in Afghanistan with themes that apply to all of us. You will have an objective test on 1984 shortly after school starts and will be discussing and writing about The Kite Runner in late September. (By the way, we will also be reading Lord of the Flies during the first quarter, so don't leave your summer reading for then.)

In addition to reading the novels, there is an assignment associated with each one. The 1984 work is due **THE FIRST TIME WE MEET AS A CLASS** (even if it is only for 10 minutes). The Kite Runner work is due mid-September. Please note: **I DO NOT ACCEPT ANY LATE WORK FROM AP STUDENTS**. Don't waste your breath asking for extensions; an AP student should be conscientious.

Assignments for 1984:

While you are reading the novel, you are to keep a journal focusing on two things: specific details of Orwell's futuristic society and the personality of Winston. You may either take your notes chapter by chapter, with a separate section for your observations about each idea, or you may put all your about society together (chapter by chapter) and all your notes about Winston together (chapter by chapter). If you come across a good quote, include it...list specific details and events. This journal need not be typed and will be worth 15 points.

When you are finished with the novel, pull your notes together and type a brief essay (1-2 pages double spaced, Times New Roman, size 12 font) either discussing the personality of Winston or describing the society portrayed by Orwell. Be sure to use specifics from the novel to support your statements...include some direct quotes. This essay will be worth 30 points.

In addition, compile a packet of new articles that you come across this summer that either give support to the fact that some of Orwell's predictions are applicable to our society or show that he was way off base. You don't have to go crazy with this; just see if you can find 4-5 articles. (5 points)

Assignment for The Kite Runner:

20 points—due mid-September

Take detailed notes on your assigned theme. As you are reading the book, note particular passages, symbols, actions, quotes that help to develop the motif. This can be in note form...however, it should be more than a few lines....delve into the theme and how the author expands on it as the story progresses.

People with birthdays in January, February, March:

Theme of the relationship between fathers and sons

People with birthdays in April, May, June:

Theme of discrimination, bigotry, class structure

People with birthdays in July, August, September:

Theme of loyalty and devotion, friendship

People with birthdays in October, November, December:

Theme of man's inhumanity to man, evil vs. the resilience of the human spirit

Note: This is more than a summer reading assignment; I want you to know these books. We will be referring to them all year long, so I will expect you to remember the key concepts and plot. To give you extra incentive to read (and not rely on the internet!), remember that approximately 75% of your SAT Verbal score is based on reading comprehension....guess how you improve that?????