

Dear future Sophomore Honors Student,

Welcome to Honors English II! In preparation for our study of literature next year, I am including the following directions for your summer reading assignment. This summer you will be reading two books, the One School, One Book choice, and *1984*, by George Orwell, and annotating as you read in order to complete a short writing reflection. This assignment will be **due on the first day** that you return to school.

Unit 1: Conformity and Rebellion.

Not all those who wander are lost.

--J.R.R. Tolkien

Much of the literature of the Western world might be said to express the struggle between conformity and rebellion. We find this theme in our earliest recorded texts. Genesis tells the story of Eve and Adam's refusal to conform—an act picked up centuries later in the opening lines of John Milton's epic poem, *Paradise Lost*: "Of man's first disobedience, and the fruit/Of that forbidden tree whose mortal taste/Brought death into the world, and all our woe." At the same time, however, we see obedience as a virtue. Without duty and order, without cooperation and teamwork, where would we be? We admire and respect those heroes who hold things together—figures such as Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt—as well as those who serve and protect us: police officers, firefighters, and soldiers. But we also look to heroes who rebel: Socrates, Copernicus, Galileo, Darwin, Jefferson, Thoreau, Cady Stanton, Gandhi, MLK Jr...Our heroes are often those who, as Senator Robert F. Kennedy said, "dream of things that never were and ask, why not?" Sometimes the noblest rebellion is in conformity with a higher law.

The texts that you read over the summer and during our first unit in class will present the ongoing struggle between the inertia of conformity and the challenges and promises of rebellion. As you read your Summer Reading books, mark passages that particularly speak to these ideas and be ready to discuss them in class.

Dialectical Journal Assignment

As you read the two summer reading books, you are expected to keep a dialectical journal for only *1984*. ("Dialectic" means the art or practice of logical discussion.) You may choose from the list below to complete your 8 entries. **You may use a journal choice only twice.**

Your journal **MUST** be typed, as you will be submitting it to turnitin.com. Please resist the urge to google information. I am looking for your own creative and original ideas and know when a student has looked at outside sources.

Create a 3-column journal. The first column should contain the chapter number and page reference; the second column should have a copy of the short passage, the third column, your response to the passage as well as the journal choice you are responding to.

The most important aspect of this assignment is your response to each passage. It will be graded on originality, quality, and thoughtful content. Your response should be between 150-250 words.

Space out your entries by dividing *1984* into 8 equal sections. The first one should be over the first 1/8 of the book, the second over the 2/8, etc. Please email me or come talk to me if you have any questions about this assignment.

Journal Choices for *1984*:

1. Closely examine and comment on a relationship between two characters in the text. What do you think that Orwell is trying to “say” about this relationship?
2. Analyze one of the contradictions that exists in the world in which Winston lives.
3. What do you think Orwell is trying to warn his readership about?
4. Do you think Winston is a hero? Why or why not?
5. Make a connection between the party and “Big Brother” with things happening in our current society (nationally or globally).
6. Discuss the class system in the novel. How do you feel about it? How do you think that Orwell feels about it?
7. Locate what you feel to be the most crucial passage in the novel and explain why you feel it to be so.

Example of a Dialectical Journal Entry: (Please note that these responses are shorter than I would like for them to be.)

Chapter & Page
Chapter 1, Page 2
The Great Gatsby

Passage
“Only Gatsby...Gatsby, who represented everything for which I have an unaffected scorn...there was something gorgeous about him, some heightened sensitivity to the promises of life...No, Gatsby turned out all right at the end; it is what preyed on Gatsby...that temporarily closed out my interest in the abortive sorrows and short-winded elations of men.”

Response
Journal Choice 3: In this passage, the reader gets a first impression of Jay Gatsby from Nick’s point of view. It’s a rather obscure impression that ranges from “scorn” to respect. It is clear in this passage that Nick sees Gatsby as a charismatic and almost ethereal figure who is entitled to many respects. However, it is also apparent that Nick ends up hating Gatsby, or at least some aspect of him. This passage also gives a foreshadowing to what may happen throughout the novel. I think it’s interesting that he has a “sensitivity to the promises of life”...maybe Gatsby lives an ideal life.

Chapter 2, Page 37
The Great Gatsby

“Daisy! Daisy! Daisy!” shouted Mrs. Wilson. ‘I’ll say it whenever I want to!...’ Making a sharp deft movement, Tom Buchanan broke her nose with his open hand.”

Journal Choice 4: From the very beginning of the novel, I noticed that Tom Buchanan is a very abrupt character. He decides things, it seems, spontaneously and does not think much of its effect. Tom also seems very prone to dominance and authority. It was no wonder he hit Myrtle when she stepped out of her submissive role as a woman. However, it did still surprise me to read that he broke her nose. I had to reread it again to make sure I read it correctly the first time. I guess I just assumed he could be an unpleasant person, but I didn’t expect him to be so prone to violence.

Your responses must have perfect grammar and be typed in Times New Roman 12-point font.

Have a wonderful summer and enjoy the book!

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