

Samuel Clemens High School Incoming Honors English II Summer Reading

May 14, 2019

Dear **Samuel Clemens Incoming Honors English II** Student,

Congratulations on your decision to take Honors English next year! While we are in the process of winding down one school year and looking forward to a break, we are also excited and busy preparing for the upcoming year. The teachers of advanced level English classes across the district have been collaborating over the last several months to build a strong foundational program to help you develop the reading and writing skills that are necessary to be successful on the assessments at every level and to prepare you for the rigors of college.

Just as with athletics and the fine arts, consistent practice is essential to keep your skills sharp. Reading and writing should be a daily habit, both in and out of school. While we understand that summer is a time to rest and relax after many months of hard work, we also know that too much time without practice can result in a loss of proficiency. Summer assignments are designed to maintain and polish skills learned during the last year and prepare for new challenges, but we have been careful to make sure that it does not overwhelm you and that you have plenty of time to enjoy yourself during the break.

As we start the next year, we will be able to hit the ground running with a common reading assignment that will be the focus of class discussion and composition right from the beginning. This will actually result in a less stressful start to the year, since you will already have completed the reading and foundational assignments instead of having to read a major work while adjusting to all of your other classes at the start of the next school year. The reading selections and accompanying assignments at each grade level have been designed to be both entertaining and thought-provoking, while still staying within the expectations of your abilities. You will be able to work at your own pace and will develop the time-management skills you will need not only in school, but in all aspects of your life.

Of course, there are greater expectations of students who elect to take these courses, but the rewards are great as well. Graduates often return to share their experiences after high school and how well prepared they were for college level analysis – both in written assignments and class discussions.

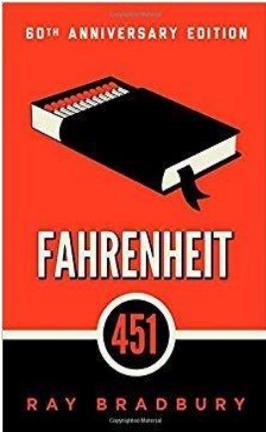
Once again, we are thrilled that you are taking on this very rewarding challenge, and we look forward to seeing you next year!

Sincerely,

SCUC ISD 9th and 10th Grade Honors English Teachers

For information and/or questions, please contact Christian Merriner at cmerriner@scuc.txed.net.

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In an effort to keep your mind sharp this summer and to continue your preparation as a Pre-AP student, you will be reading the fiction novel *Fahrenheit 451*.

Ray Bradbury’s internationally acclaimed novel *Fahrenheit 451* is a masterwork of twentieth century literature set in a bleak, dystopian future. Guy Montag is a fireman. In his world, where television rules and literature is on the brink of extinction, firemen start fires rather than put them out. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television “family.” But then he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn’t live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television.

Where to Purchase

<p>www.amazon.com www.barnesandnoble.com www.alibris.com</p>	<p>Barnes and Noble 18030 Hwy 281N #140 San Antonio, TX 78232 210-490-0411</p>	<p>Barnes and Noble 321 NW Loop 410 #104 San Antonio, TX 78216 210-342-0008</p>
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Assignment

There are three sections of the novel, “The Hearth and the Salamander”, “The Sieve and the Sand”, and “Burning Bright”. For each section you will complete a synopsis and reflection.

Synopsis	Reflections
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typed • Size 12, Times New Roman font • 250-500 words per synopsis • Include major plot events and characters for that section. <p>***Source to help write a clear synopsis https://www.masterclass.com/articles/how-to-write-a-novel-synopsis-step-by-step-guide#the-3-most-important-parts-of-a-synopsis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typed • Size 12, Times New Roman font • 250-500 words per reflection (in paragraph form) • Include specific examples and page numbers to support your reflection. <p>Each reflection should include answers to the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which character did you find the most interesting and why? 2. Which event impacted you the most? 3. Which event did you think moved the plot in the most meaningful way? 4. How can you connect the events in that section to your own life/current reality? 5. What theme(s) do you see reflected throughout the section and how do you know? 6. What prominent symbol(s) do you see throughout the section and what do they represent?

Reminders

All assignments will be submitted to Turnitin.com to identify any plagiarism.
 No outside sources may be used to complete the synopsis and/or reflections
 No collaboration is allowed.

Assignment is due September 3, 2019