



**World Literature II
2008 Summer Reading Assignment**

Dear students entering 10th grade:

May 2008

World Literature II will be a continuation of the study of great works of world literature that you have already begun, with a special focus on Great Britain. In preparation for our journey to the British Isles, you have an assignment of two books for the summer:

Lord of the Flies by William Golding and ***Brave New World*** by Aldous Huxley
Please read *Lord of the Flies* first! You will understand why if you do as I ask.

The assignments below are due on the first day of school. No creative excuses will be accepted. If your dog eats it, please bring in your dog.

Your assignment will be used as the notes to prepare for the essay that you will be writing on the two novels after we discuss them during the first two weeks of school.

Whenever you begin a work of literature, you immediately begin to think about the characters:

- Who is this person? (description)
- What is he/she like? (character)
- What does he/ she really want? (motivation)
- What does he/she do or say that seems truly important? (behavior and beliefs)

**A. Therefore, in addition to reading, please complete notes on the following characters:
LOF: Ralph, Piggy, and Jack; *BNW*: Bernard, John, and Lenina
You should locate at least the following (and page numbers really help!):**

1. one quotation describing his or her physical appearance
2. two quotations showing distinguishing features of his or her personality
3. two quotations showing motivation (for this you may need to make inferences)
4. an action that you feel is indicative of the nature of his or her character

(If you want, there is a chart on the website, or you can just take notes as you read.)

B. Please answer the following four questions—one set for each novel. You may type or write them on a separate sheet of paper. You are more than welcome to type up your notes and questions, or you can leave them as the first entries in your English journal for the school year.

1. What do you see as the climax of the novel?
2. What symbols do you believe the author is using?
3. What makes this appear to be a perfect world at first?
4. What does each author seem to be saying about human nature?

A utopia is a Latin term meaning “no-place.” It was an imaginary island created by Thomas More in his book *Utopia*. It describes a place that seems to be socially or politically perfect. Both of the novels you are going to read describe worlds that initially appear to be perfect. We will be examining the aspects that make these societies perfect and imperfect and talk about the aspects of human nature that make them this way.

Note: The title *Brave New World* comes from a famous line in William Shakespeare's play *The Tempest*, which John, a major character in the novel, has read. Huxley makes several **allusions** to *The Tempest*, a play of love and magic and spiritual regeneration. The most important piece of the plot you need to understand, however, is that Miranda, the heroine, lives on an isolated island, and she has never seen any humans besides her father. In the beginning of the play, a crew of noblemen and sailors is deliberately shipwrecked there by her father, Prospero, who has magical powers. When she finally sees these human beings, Miranda cries out, "O brave new world, / That has such people in it!" Huxley uses this comment and several other speeches from the play to explore his *Brave New World*. As you read the novel, think about John's comment on the brave new world to which he has come.

For those of you who feel you want to read more, do not despair; here is a list of other suggested British works you are heartily encouraged to explore:

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte

One of the most passionate stories of the power of possessive and demanding love, the story is set in a landscape that is as wild and powerful as the hero and heroine.

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

Charlotte Bronte tells the suspense-filled story of a poor governess in a house of deep, dark secrets. As Jane comes to understand herself, she also learns about the secret lives of those around her.

Moonstone by Wilkie Collins

Collins was one of the first mystery writers to use a detective to solve the case, a crime involving the theft of a diamond that once adorned a Hindu idol. One of the best mysteries ever written, it contains rich language and plotting. (om Walt Whitman High School's reading list notes)

Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens

This is the famous story of the orphaned boy who roams the streets of London with a gang of pickpockets before he discovers his true place in life.

The Mayor of Casterbridge by Thomas Hardy

Thomas Hardy is a master at exploring the minds of characters who have made a mistake. When the mistake of his youth comes back to haunt him, the mayor has to deal with the consequences.

Dracula by Bram Stoker

When Bram Stoker's *Dracula* appeared in 1897, the most astute praise came from the author's mother, who wrote to her son: "It is splendid. No book since Mrs. Shelley's *Frankenstein* or indeed any other at all has come near yours in originality, or terror." (Walt Whitman High School's notes)

Have a great summer and enjoy your reading! Anne Nightingale

If you lose this sheet, you can find the assignment on the website (www.crossroadscollegeprep.org) or call me at home (721-4521) or at school and leave a message for me.