**Honors English – 9th Grade Summer Reading 2024**

**Read both novellas:**

***Anthem* by Ayn Rand**

***Animal Farm* byGeorge Orwell**

*Synopsis of each work:*

***Anthem*:** Ayn Rand’s dystopian novella is not just a story about the individual being swallowed by the collective. This book also deals with an identification of how that can happen and what ideas people must first accept before such a totalitarian society can take hold. ***Anthem*** is not merely a story about the horrible, depressing life of people in a collectivist society; it is also about the triumph of the individual’s independent spirit and the triumph of those who reject the ethics of collectivism. **(Annotations required.) Please annotate for literary devices (figurative language), plot points, character development, and thematic ideas (themes, symbols, and motifs).**

***Animal* Farm:** George Orwell’s allegorical satirical fable takes place on a country farm in England. The animals revolt against their owner, take over the farm, and run the farm with “communist” principles. What follows shocks the reader and unfolds the truth of Russia’s Bolshevik Revolution and its attempt to create a communist socialist society. Orwell’s novella creates memorable characters each representing a player in the Russian Revolution and illustrates the allure of socialism and the erosion of equal rights. **(Annotations required.)** **Please annotate for plot points, character development, and thematic ideas (themes, symbols, and motifs).**

**Before jumping into annotation, please watch the video linked below. Watch how this AP student hones her annotation skills and simplifies the process through effective annotation.**

**What is annotation, and why do we do it?**

* [**Click here to watch an informative video on how to annotate effectively.**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=muZcJXlfCWs)

**Tools: Highlighter, Pen, Pencil, and Your Own Text**

1. **Highlighter or Colored Pens**: While you read, highlight or underline key information. If you choose to put a key at the front of the book, you can easily use different colors to highlight for different things: figurative language, symbols, plot points, characterization, themes etc. *If you use only one highlighter color, make sure you annotate explaining why that particular passage is important.* Do not simply highlight the text.
2. **Pen or Pencil:** While you read, use marginalia—marginal notes—to mark key material. Marginalia can include check marks, question marks, stars, arrows, brackets, and written words and phrases. ***Create your own system for marking what is important, interesting, quotable, questionable, and so forth.***
3. **Your Text**:

On the inside front and back cover of your book you may want to include the following:

* List of main characters
* Highlighter key and/or annotation key
* Quotable quotes with page numbers
* Make a list of vocabulary words on a back page or the inside back cover. Possible ideas for lists include the author's special jargon and new, unknown, or otherwise interesting words.

As you read, section by section, chapter by chapter, **consider doing the following:**

* At the end of each chapter or section, **briefly** summarize the material. (Sticky notes work well for this!)
* Title each chapter or section as soon as you finish it, especially if the text does not provide headings for chapters or sections.

**If you have any questions or concerns about specific texts, email one of the two freshmen Honors English teachers.**

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