

May 22, 2016

Dear In-Coming English I Pre-AP Students,

First, congrats on taking the initiative to register for the English I Pre-AP Course. If you enjoy reading and writing and are able to see the benefit of becoming a life-long learner, Room (#B-129) will be a good fit! We will work tirelessly; however, you should see growth in your level of insight and overall writing ability as we take the first step towards College Readiness. Come prepared to read within a diverse range of genres and plan to write extensively for an array of varied purposes.

Preparedness, motivation, and work ethic are valuable indicators for academic success, so let's begin! Just below the dotted line, please find Summer Reading Instructions for George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. I look forward to meeting you in August!

Embrace Reading,

Mrs. Iris McNair
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Lamar High School

Summer Reading Instructions

Instructor's Notes:

For your summer reading, use any edition of the book; a brand new or mildly-used copy will work just as well. While closely reading the novel, make all of the following annotations or (notes) inside your personal copy or use sticky notes to use inside a borrowed book. The annotation process can often be tedious; however, if notations are purposefully completed, students should experience greater success with insight and understanding of a literary work.

Annotations or Note-Taking:

Remember, if using a *borrowed book*, *please invest in some sticky notes*. If purchasing *your own book*, *a varied pack of highlighters should work well*. The Dollar Tree Chains in the area have packages of (4 ct.) neon-colored small notes, (1 ct.) single-colored larger notes, and (3 ct.) different-colored highlighter packs all for (\$1.00) each. Please do not wait until the last minute to read and annotate, as the task will seem enormous if attempted once the new school year has started. Also, feel free to email me with any confusion that may arise during your Summer Reading Experience, and I will be happy to help!

Required Summer Book for English I Pre-AP:

Animal Farm by George Orwell
(Fiction Selection)

(Please go to the next page).

Graded Assignments:

Along with grading your annotations or (notes), *plan to test during the second week of school* with objective questions, short essay evaluations, and an In-Class Theme. Also, remember that LCISD mandates that major grades are counted as (70%) of your cumulative average in a Pre-AP or AP Course. Again, please do not wait until the last minute to begin reading, as this may cause undue stress.

Highlight your (Personal Copy) or Use Sticky Notes in a (Loaner Book):

First, write your full name (in print) inside the front cover of your book or use a sticky note. Then, create a color-coding key also inside the front cover of the book. If possible, attempt to use lighter colors; darker hues may blur wording. (The AP College Board recommends yellow as a primary annotation color). Suggested colors are light yellow, light green, and light pink but you may use whatever is most convenient. If borrowing a book, the three suggested colors are commonly found in sticky note packs as well.

Animal Farm

By: George Orwell

Highlight or Use Sticky Notes:

- 1.) **Color #1: Highlight/mark with a Sticky Note** each time a new **SETTING** or (location) is mentioned. This practice will help when you are looking for a particular section of the book and will also encourage connections with changes in settings as they relate to changes in the book's action, conflict, and tone. Write a few words in the margins or on a sticky note that capture the feeling in the work after reading a paragraph or two at each different location.
- 2.) **Color #2: Box/Mark with a Sticky Note** when each new **CHARACTER** is introduced, (human or animal), but only when mentioned for the first time. Then, identify information that contributes to the reader's understanding of the novel. The author will provide insight into a character's physical and personality traits along with values, motivation, thoughts, conflicts, and social interactions. **UNDERLINE/Mark with a Sticky Note** at least (2) personal insights you have made on a (deeper) understanding of each character and how that character contributes to the plot's action or author's message.
- 3.) **Color #3:** - After reading each chapter, **write/mark with a Sticky Note** (next to the Chapter number) one sentence that explains the **MAIN IDEA** for each section.

Remember to Implement the use of Electronic Resources:

Orwell's piece is an allegory that symbolically represents Russia under the tyrannical rule of Joseph Stalin. To extend your understanding of the book, please Google some of the following terms/topics:

- Joseph Stalin
- The Romanov Family
- Jewels of the Romanovs
- Russian Revolution
- Communism

Graphic Organizers: (See attached Pages (#4 and #5).

- A.) **F.I.V.E.S:** Complete the worksheet with relevant, insightful, and well-thought out information from the novel. Please follow directions as specified on the page.
- B.) **Web Graphic Organizer for Setting:** Provide text evidence from the novel, correct page documentation, and insightful conclusions. Please follow directions as specified on the page.

Written Notes:

- A.) **Factual Details: Underline/Mark on paper** any facts, character introductions, interesting details, relevant information, or any idea that prompts you to make a significant connection with the text. (Include at least 1 detail from each chapter).
- B.) **Insightful Passages: STAR/Mark on paper** (1 example) of text evidence from each chapter that contributes to the author's message. Include at least one sentence that supports your inferences.

**If you are using borrowed materials, please remember to use sticky notes where instructions direct you to highlight or write in your book.

Happy Reading and Annotating!!