



FAIRFAX COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Herndon High School

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June 10, 2009

Parents, Guardians and Students:

To meet the expectations of the Fairfax County Public Schools for encouraging intellectual growth and critical thinking skills, the Herndon High School English Department requires a summer reading assignment. This assignment, while generally required by Fairfax County, has been shaped by Herndon High to address the needs of our specific Program of Studies and these assignments take the place of the county list in fulfilling this requirement.

The summer reading list for all classes will be sent to area bookstores, including Barnes and Noble, Books-A-Million, and Borders. In addition, it will be available on the Herndon High School web site. If no written assignment is specified, students should bring the book with them on the first day of school in September. If a written assignment is required, it will be due on the first day as well.

We want students to take advantage of this opportunity to start the year successfully. We wish you an enjoyable and enriching summer.

Sincerely,

Janice Jewell, Chair
English Department

AP English Language Summer Reading Assignment

Although AP English Language is a course in non-fiction prose, your summer reading assignment is a choice between two novels, both written in the middle of the twentieth century, both imagining the unknown world of the future.

They are

1984

Brave New World

George Orwell

Aldous Huxley

All you have to do by the beginning of school is read the book. The two books, both British, written within fifteen years of each other, are both dystopias, picturing very bad worlds. They make an interesting pair, and you are warmly invited to read both. You should probably have your own copy of the book so you can write in it and have it in class if your teacher requests it. Early in the fall, your AP Language teacher will offer you a writing assignment based on your summer reading.

Summer Reading Guide

1. PARAPHRASE, in your own words, sections you find confusing. Put a sticky in any pages you have a question about.
2. LOOK UP any words you don't know.
3. NOTICE the overall structure: how does the text begin? Who is speaking? What is the conflict?
4. What is the MAIN IDEA of the novel?
5. What is the author suggesting about politics, human nature, freedom, etc?
6. What is the significance of this commentary--why should we be thinking about it?