Westhill High School Summer Reading: AP Literature and Composition (12)

You must complete TWO assignments over the summer. BOTH are listed below.

The Handmaid's Tale

A gripping vision of our society radically overturned by a theocratic revolution, Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale has become one of the most powerful and most widely read novels of our time.

Offred is a Handmaid in the Republic of Gilead, serving in the household of the enigmatic Commander and his bitter wife. She may go out once a day to markets whose signs are now pictures because women are not allowed to read. She must pray that the Commander makes her pregnant, for in a time of declining birthrates her value lies in her fertility, and failure means exile to the dangerously polluted Colonies. Offred can remember a time when she lived with her husband and daughter and had a job, before she lost even her own name. Now she navigates the intimate secrets of those who control her every move, risking her life in breaking the rules.

Assignment #1

Read and enjoy The Handmaid's Tale! 😊

Once you have finished reading please complete a Data Sheet for the book you chose to read. The directions for this assignment and an electronic version of the data sheet are available on the Westhill webpage. You may also pick up printed materials from your English teacher any time before June 17, 2019. Please note that all work will be submitted to www.turnitin.com when you return in the fall; any student submitting any amount of plagiarized content will receive a zero for this assignment.

This assignment is due on Friday, September 6, 2019.

Assignment #2

In addition to reading and writing about The Handmaid's Tale, AP Literature and Composition students should obtain a copy of How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas C. Foster. If you prefer a PDF version of the book, please email Ms. Tobin or Ms. Wheeler (ktobin@StamfordCT.gov or cwheeler@StamfordCT.gov).

While you are welcome to read the entire book, we would like you to focus on Chapters 2, 5, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, and 20. Please annotate these chapters the way you would any text that you are reading for informational purposes – make note of key ideas, important details, and anything in the text you think is especially interesting.

Your annotations for How to Read Literature Like a Professor are due on Friday, September 13, 2019. Your AP teacher will provide specific details about how s/he will be assessing your work on the first day of school.