

Summer 2024 Reading—Pre-IB English I

Your first English assignment as a pre-IB freshman is to read *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. Please order/purchase the book with this ISBN number (ISBN 978-0-451-52634-2) to ensure your text matches what we'll use and do in class.

Animal Farm is an allegorical novel that tells the story of a group of farm animals who rebel against their human farmer in hopes of creating a society where all animals can be equal, free, and happy. It has received critical acclaim and is included on many lists of the top novels of the twentieth century, including *Time* magazine's 100 Best English-Language Novels. Praise for the book includes:

"A wise, compassionate, and illuminating fable for our times."—*The New York Times*

"Orwell's satire here is amply broad, cleverly conceived, and delightfully written."—*San Francisco Chronicle*

As you read, underline any unknown words in pencil; write a synonym for the word in pencil near the word. While reading, consider these questions:

- What things change throughout the novel? How and why do they change?
- What roles/classes in society might the animals represent?
- How are power, control, and corruption represented in the novel?
- What types of language does Orwell use to tell his story? (Describe his language—simple, complex, direct, symbolic, etc.) Why did he make these choices?
- What structure/syntax choices does Orwell make and why does he make them?
- How is this book relevant today, and perhaps for all time?

You should have finished reading the book and be ready for a reading/comprehension test by the start of school. You should have read the book, have a thorough understanding of the plot/story and characters, and have thought through the questions above. This is a first reading of the text; we'll "dig" into it together in August! Come ready with any questions you have; also, be ready for discussions and other assignments based on this novel.

NOTE: You do NOT need to have written responses to the questions above, but you should know what you *think* about each one. If you'd like to make your own notes, you may. Please don't annotate the book at this point; we'll begin that together when school starts, when you can be shown how annotations should be done. You may take notes on sticky notes in the book or on paper, but only if you feel you need them. If you have any specific questions, please email any of the English teachers at robert2.brown@hcps.net, lisa.leal@hcps.net, or isabella.tucciarone@hcps.net.

Have a great summer—can't wait to meet you! :)

Required Materials

- 1.5 – 2 inch binder
- Dividers for binder (at least 8)
- Highlighters (yellow, orange, pink, blue, green)
- 1-inch white clear-view binder (for your Learner Portfolio)
- Notebook paper
- Post-It Notes (various sizes)
- Pencils/pens