

Summer 2022 Rising Sophomores' Assignment

Select one of the following novels to read:

- **Scythe by Neal Shusterman****

A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery: humanity has conquered all those things, and has even conquered death. Now Scythes are the only ones who can end life—and they are commanded to do so, in order to keep the size of the population under control.

Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe—a role that neither wants. These teens must master the “art” of taking life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own.

Scythe is the first novel of a thrilling new series by National Book Award–winning author Neal Shusterman in which Citra and Rowan learn that a perfect world comes only with a heavy price.

***In some instances, the scythe’s methods are not graphic, but gruesome.*

- **Dry by Neal Shusterman**

The drought—or the Tap-Out, as everyone calls it—has been going on for a while now. Everyone’s lives have become an endless list of don’ts: don’t water the lawn, don’t fill up your pool, don’t take long showers. Until the taps run dry. Suddenly, Alyssa’s quiet suburban street spirals into a warzone of desperation; neighbors and families turn against each other on the hunt for water. And when her parents don’t return and her life—and the life of her brother—is threatened, Alyssa has to make impossible choices if she’s going to survive.

- **Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury**

Guy Montag is a fireman. In his world, where television rules and literature is on the brink of extinction, firemen start fires rather than put them out. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden.

All of these novels are speculative or science fiction, which means they question something about society. Choose one of the books and read it. Then, when you've completed your reading, answer the following questions to the best of your ability and using the following criteria:

1. Create a New Google Doc
2. Use MLA format
 - a. Your name, teacher name, class (E2H), and date in the upper left corner
 - b. A title, centered; You can use Summer Assignment: *Title of the Book You Chose*
 - c. Double Space, Times New Roman, Size 12, 1 inch margins.
3. Copy the questions below into the Google Doc you created
4. Answer the questions in complete sentences.

Assignment Questions

1. What question might have been the inspiration for the author?
2. How does the main character change during the novel? Use text evidence and commentary to answer this question.
3. Select 5 quotes from the novel that are meaningful to you. Explain the significance to the plot, character, conflict, or other literary element of the novel.
4. In one sentence, what is the author's critique of society as shown through the book?
5. What was your favorite part of the novel? Explain why you liked that part of the novel
6. In your own words, what solutions or alternatives does the author seem to recommend for the world he has created?

DUE DATE: The first Monday of the school year 2022-2023

There will be GRADED CLASS ACTIVITIES based on these readings that will be a portion of the Quarter 1 Grade.