**A Reading Challenge!**

**Summer Reading 2019**

**On-Level English IV**

**Directions:** Read a book that meets one of the challenges below. There are only two requirements: 1.) the book must be high school reading level or above 2.) the book must be one you have *not* read previously.

**Assignment**: After you read the book, write a two- to three-page response to the book. In this response, **you should first identify which reading challenge the book met**.  Be sure to mention the author and title. In this response, you need to have four sections:

Section 1.) summarize the plot

Section 2.) analyze the main characters

Section 3.) explain the main theme(s)

Section 4.) offer a personal response to the book.

Each section should be approximately ½ page in length. (So, if you have four sections, and each is ½ page, then the total length will be two pages.)

So, to be clear--you will submit a two- to three-page response consisting of the four sections detailed above.

DO NOT consult outside sources for the essay. I want *your* response. There will be a time for research, but in this case, I want your thoughts only.

**The essay should be typed in MLA format: 12-pt Times New Roman font, double spaced, correct heading and header.**

**On the first day of class, we will submit the essay to turnitin.com together.**

Here is the list of reading challenges! I hope you enjoy selecting and reading your summer book.

1. **Read a classic.** Teachers and parents have been bugging you to do this for years.  Now’s your chance to pick one up.  These books have carved out niches in literary movements, fostered societal change, caused individuals to reflect on their behaviors, and been deemed timeless to generation after generation.  Find out why Shakespeare, the Brontes, Hemingway, Wharton, and so many others are still on the bookshelves.
2. **Read something on the** [**“banned books” list**](http://www.ala.org/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks/classics)**.** See if you agree that these forbidden gems contain content that is “just too much” for your schoolchild mind.
3. **Read a play**. There are tons of amazing playwrights out there, and reading a play is a completely unique experience.  Here is a [top ten list from Goodreads](http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/468.Best_Plays_Ever).  My personal favorite is *Death of a Salesman*.
4. **Read the first book in a series**. These reading experiences allow you to live in the author’s world for an extended period time. They introduce you to a variety of conflicts and plot elements and can be EPIC!
5. **Email a current or previous teacher** and ask them for a book recommendation and read it. (This does not have to be an English teacher!)

**(OVER)**

1. **Read a book with a family member**. Ask your grandma, uncle, mom, niece, cousin, sister--whoever you’re related to--what they want to read and then explore it with them.
2. **Read a book from a “Best Of” list**.  There are tons: [*New York Times* Bestsellers](http://www.nytimes.com/best-sellers-books/overview.html), [Best YA Literature of 2015](http://www.goodreads.com/list/tag/ya) according to GoodReads, [Best YA Literature according to *Rolling Stone*](http://www.rollingstone.com/culture/lists/when-holden-met-katniss-the-40-best-ya-novels-20140522),  [Best Books of 2015 according to NPR](http://apps.npr.org/best-books-2015/), [Best Summer Books by *Publisher’s Weekly*](http://best-books.publishersweekly.com/pw/best-books/summer-reads-2014/top-10), etc.
3. **Read a book that takes place in another country or continent.**
4. **Read a book that is by or about someone from an indigenous culture** (Native Americans, Aboriginals, etc.).  Sherman Alexie and Isabelle Allende are great authors to start with.
5. **Having a "book snob" moment? Challenge yourself to a** [**National Book Award**](http://www.nationalbook.org/)**,** [**Man Booker Prize**](http://www.themanbookerprize.com/)**,**  [**Pen Faulkner**](http://www.penfaulkner.org/award-for-fiction/past-award-winners-finalists/) **or** [**Pulitzer Prize**](http://www.pulitzer.org/) **winner** from the last decade.
6. **Read a book that was published the year you were born**.  Books from when I was born are now considered antiques….
7. **Read a book with more than 500 pages**. [*War and Peace*](http://www.amazon.com/War-Peace-Vintage-Classics-Tolstoy/dp/1400079985) anyone?
8. **Read a book with a** [**single word**](http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/14504.One_Word_Titles) **as a title**. [*Divergent*](http://www.amazon.com/Divergent-Trilogy-Book-1-ebook/dp/B004CFA9RS), [*Dune*](http://www.amazon.com/Dune-Frank-Herbert/dp/0441172717), and [*Obasan*](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/9723.Obasan?from_search=true&search_version=service) certainly qualify.
9. **Read a book with** [**a number in its title**](http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/18330.Great_books_with_numbers_in_their_titles_).  Get your dystopia on with [*1984*](http://www.amazon.com/1984-Signet-Classics-George-Orwell/dp/0451524934), engage your inner Dickens with [*A Tale of Two Cities*](http://www.amazon.com/Tale-Cities-Dover-Thrift-Editions/dp/0486406512), travel across the globe with [*A Thousand Splendid Suns*](http://www.amazon.com/Thousand-Splendid-Suns-Khaled-Hosseini/dp/159448385X), compare Kubrick's *A Clockwork Orange* to Lessing’s [*The Fifth Child*](http://www.amazon.com/The-Fifth-Child-Doris-Lessing/dp/0679721827), get caught up in the suspense of [*Nineteen Minutes*](http://www.amazon.com/Nineteen-Minutes-Jodi-Picoult/dp/0743496736), or spend [*Seven Years in Tibet*](http://www.amazon.com/Seven-Years-Tibet-Cornerstone-Editions/dp/1585427438).
10. **Read a book set in Oklahoma** or by an **author from Oklahoma**. (Coach Hepner has written a book--you could read this one!)
11. **Read a book from the Advanced Placement English Literature & Composition Exam** list. <http://mseffie.com/AP/APtitles.html> (On the AP English exam for senior English, the third essay question on the test requires you to choose the novel or play you analyze. On the prompt, the test makers provide suggestions for books which apply to the essay question.)
12. **Create your own reading challenge**… Did I miss something? Email me another “challenge” that you want to meet, and I can confirm that it meets the requirements of the assignment.