



South Lakes High School

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Re: IB English I Jump Start Summer Reading Assignment 2019

Dear IB English I Student:

Over the summer, all prospective IB English I students are expected to read George Orwell's *1984*.

We also suggest you procure a copy of Thomas C. Foster's guide, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines*. No reading from Foster's text will be required until the start of the year.

We suggest you purchase both books; you will need to peruse Foster's guide throughout the year. If you cannot purchase these books (or any others during the IB program), you may check out a book from your local library, school library, or English teacher.

There will be copies of *1984* available in the front office to borrow as well.

(1) Read *1984*

- a. We recommend you highlight and annotate as you read for the purposes of enhancing comprehension and appreciation of writers choices (post-it notes and flags are a good idea).

Reading and annotating this text should take approximately 10 hours.

The panel assignment is attached. These will be the questions that will be used for the panel discussed. This assessment will take place during the third week of school. You will be given an opportunity to work on these questions in class prior to the panel.

We do not expect you to complete this over the summer.

Also, these are the books we will be reading during the first quarter of the 2019-2020 school year should you wish to procure a copy over the summer.

1984 by George Orwell - ISBN-13: 978-0451524935

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood - ISBN-13: 978-0385490818

We look forward to working with you during the upcoming year. We have an exciting year ahead of us!

Respectfully,

Emily Brown

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Through this panel discussion, you will examine the ways in which the global issue of power and oppression is presented through the content and form of George Orwell's novel, *1984*.

1. How is memory used as a motif in *1984*? To what effect? How does memory highlight power and oppression present in the novel?
2. What is Orwell suggesting about the relationship between language and freedom? What is thus being suggested about how language can be used as a tool of power and oppression?
3. How does Orwell utilize the concept of control? To what effect?
4. What is the most meaningful symbol in *1984*? When is it used and how does it contribute to the understanding of Orwell's purpose? Consider symbols of hierarchy, power, struggle against oppression?
5. Discuss Orwell's representation of the proles. How does Orwell depict them as different from the Party members and why? Consider the distribution of wealth and resources.
6. Discuss the ambiguity of the ending of *1984*. In what ways does Orwell prepare the reader for this ending? What is being suggested about this government?
7. Discuss how the narrative point of view in *1984* affects the development of our understanding of Orwell's society. What aspects of oppression and/or power are evident through this point of view?
8. Compare and contrast Julia's and Winston's attitudes towards the regime, power, and oppression. What factors contribute to these differences and similarities?
9. How does Orwell characterize Winston Smith? How does Winston respond to the power hierarchy presented in *1984*?
10. Consider the risks Winston takes. What might Orwell be suggesting about our rights and responsibilities as citizens?