

**ENGL 2321: British Literature**  
**Summer Reading Assignment 2022**

**\*All assignments are due the first day of class, Wednesday, August 17.**

**PART 1:**

Read Required Text: *Animal Farm* by George Orwell

1. Read the book carefully, annotating as you read. Annotations should show close reading of the novel and include commentary as well as underlining/circling, etc.

\*If you do not know what to write for annotations, you might want to read the questions below before reading and mark passages that will help you write or respond. Also, you might want to use the SQuEAL method:

- Summary: explain what is happening in the story. You might also explain the significance of these events, especially in later chapters when the picture becomes more clear.
- Questions: ask a specific question about the story or about why an author wrote it the way he/she did.
- Emotions: tell how the events in the story make you feel. Do you think the character is making good choices?
- Analysis: discuss the theme, point of view, setting, conflict, or literary devices such as tone, diction, imagery, syntax, overall writing style.
- Links: tell how events in the story relate to your life or the lives of people you have heard of or to characters in other books, plays, movies, or tv shows.

2. Answer the following questions in well written, thoughtful paragraphs. Each response should be no less than 125 words. These must be typed and turned in on the first day of class. Use MLA format.

- The new commandment reads: "ALL ANIMALS ARE EQUAL BUT SOME ANIMALS ARE MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS." How has this been true from the beginning?
- Why do you think Orwell made the reader sympathize with all the animals except the pigs, the most intelligent beasts and the closest to humans of any of the animals?
- What characteristics make a good leader? Do the pigs qualify as good leaders? Why or why not? Use specific examples.
- Snowball's reputation is destroyed from the planning of the windmill to the end of the book. Give specific examples. Explain why an "enemy" or scapegoat is necessary for the animals. Why does the "enemy" have to change? If there were no "enemy," what would that mean for any society, including that of Animal Farm?
- Look at the names of the characters. Why did Orwell use the names he did? How do the names fit the characters?
- Was the revolution of Manor Farm a success or failure? Why or why not? What can this "fairy story" tell us about revolutions?
- In the end, there is no sign of an impending rebellion. Why were the pigs effective at maintaining control? How did they use language and propaganda to do this?
- Explain how each of the following themes is portrayed in the novel.
  - Corruption:
  - Social Class:
  - Language Manipulation:

**Continue to the back for parts 2 and 3.**

Expectations on Week One of Class

- **On the first day of class there will be an objective test over the plot, setting, and characters of the novels.**
- **On the second day of class, there will be a forty-five minute in-class essay assignment on the novel that will count as the first major grade of the quarter.**

(These will both be closed book assignments. Students should pay particular attention to themes, conflicts, and societal/historical impact in the novel.)

## **PART II:**

Research the Russian Revolution of 1917. Write or type sufficient notes over this topic. Draw as many parallels as possible between the novel *Animal Farm* and the Russian Revolution of 1917. **Your notes will be turned in on the first day of class.** This assignment will be vital in preparing you for the timed write on the second day of class. Feel free to create these notes in whatever format works for you; drawings, bullet points, paragraphs, Cornell, etc.

## **PART III:**

Write your college application essay. Below are some common application essay topics. **CHECK YOUR DESIRED UNIVERSITY'S WEBSITE FIRST**, then write the essay requirement for that school. Many schools will use one of the following, but some private schools have a different topic. Include the prompt at the top of the page. The rest should be in MLA format (for me, not for your application).

- The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
- Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
- Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.

\*The purpose of the essay is to allow the board to see more about who you are as a person. Make the essay personal. It is often good to approach it as a narrative. **DO NOT** write a boring, formula, typical academic essay. **DO NOT** simply repeat your resume in sentence form. Reflect on something that will give insight into your character or what made you who you are and describe it.

**You will turn in this printed college essay on the first day of class.**

**If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. My email address is [heather.dykes@sunnyaleisd.com](mailto:heather.dykes@sunnyaleisd.com)**