Overview:

The school year is almost over, but reading and learning never stops! The Montgomery County Public School System (MCPS) advocates that all students read books over the summer. In addition to the MCPS required summer reading, Seneca Valley is committed to helping students understand the importance of reading for pleasure and developing background knowledge.

Directions:

Students will be required to read *A Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley. Students will be required to complete a reading log journal and a short written response. Students will also be asked to complete a Student-Created Literary Terminology Dictionary chart that features various vocabulary words that will pertain to the AP course.

Assignment #1: Reading Log

Part I:

Pages on the left side of the book are for writing passages and quotes that you have chosen for comment. Include the quote—word for word—with quotation marks around it and include the chapter and page number.

On the right page—opposite the quotation—you are to provide your commentary. Commentary should contain your thoughts/reactions/objections/approval and/or questions about a character or event. The commentary is not to simply summarize what happened, but rather to show what you are THINKING about what just happened. There is no “right or wrong” commentary. Interact with what you are reading and ask questions such as: Was that event a surprise to me? Would I have done things differently? Is the author building suspense here? What is the author’s purpose in having this happen? Was that a foolish thing for the character to do? Would I want to be that character?

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<th>Writing Passages/Quotations “_____________”</th>
<th>Thoughts/reactions/objections/approvals/questions</th>
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*** Minimum requirement of 15 entries—EACH one from a DIFFERENT chapter. You may, of course, provide more than 15 entries.
Part II:

In the NEXT section of the journal, create a title page “SECTION TWO”. Next you will record 10 additional quotations that describe either the main character John or Bernard Marx. Place the quotations on the left-hand page as before. Commentary will be on the right.

You should look for quotations throughout the book, so you can tell if the character changes (a dynamic character). Please keep in mind that an author can create a character in five different ways:

- the character’s appearance
- what the character says
- the character’s actions
- the character’s private thoughts
- what other characters say about them

In your commentary—

Identify which of the five methods listed above—appearance, speech, actions, etc. — was the author using to develop the character. Comment on what you have learned about the character from the quotations.

Assignment #2: Book analysis

After reading A Brave New World, determine what you believe to be the author’s main idea. Sometimes, the main idea is not clearly stated and must be inferred. Ask yourself these questions: “What is this story about?” “What is the author trying to say or what point is he trying to make?” Once you determine what you believe to be the author’s main idea of the book, write it in a sentence. This will be your thesis sentence. Once you have determined your thesis sentence, you must give specific evidence from the book to support or defend your claim. These excerpts or direct quotes from the book will serve as supporting evidence for your thesis statement and enable the reader to understand why you chose your thesis. Write a literary analysis. The thesis statement should be clearly stated in the first paragraph. Use specific quotes and examples from your book to support your thesis.

Be sure to follow the proper guidelines for writing: proper paragraphing varied sentence structure, rich language, correct grammar and punctuation. This paper is two pages maximum, double-spaced, typed, and the font should be Times New Roman. Do your very best.

Mr. Harrison

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