

**Public Schools of Edison Township**  
**Honors English: 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**Study Guide for Summer Reading**

Dear Student:

You are required to read both Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* AND George Orwell's *Animal Farm* as your summer reading requirement.

In September, we will begin the year discussing meaningful language, literary techniques and devices, and “juicy” quotations from a book (“quotations,” meaning *anything* said by a narrator or a character). As you read, identify quotations that you feel are significant and/or meaningful in some way; be sure to record the page number as well. You should also add notes that explain the significance of each quotation—please do not simply paraphrase or restate the quote in your own words. Instead, explain the impact of key words and phrases in the quotations. Use the questions below as guidelines for your responses. It is expected that you will be quite familiar with the details of the plot and characters of both books on the first day of instruction. In other words, a strong, critical reader will readily be able to locate meaningful moments in each book.

***Fahrenheit 451***: Although Ray Bradbury's work is referred to as science fiction, this novel has plenty to say about the world as it is, not as it could be. **As you read the book, what does the novel say about the world today? What did Ray Bradbury, the writer, want to caution us about? What role do people play in how the world evolves and changes over time? Does this book reflect any aspect of our current lives? In other words, to what extent was Ray Bradbury's prediction for the future accurate?**

***Animal Farm***: *Animal Farm* is a fairy story with a political purpose. In Russell Baker's preface to the book, he states that “Orwell left us a lesson about the human contribution to political terror that will always be as up-to-date as next year's election.” As you read the book, consider **what the novel says about the political world, yesterday and today. What does Orwell want to caution us about? What role do/can people play in government and the evolution of powerful leaders? To what extent does Orwell's cautionary message apply to American politics and daily life today?**

**Both texts**: As you read, consider where these two books intersect. **In other words, what connections or comparisons can you make between the two texts? Consider the following topics: conformity versus individuality, storytelling (narrator and perspective), the power of language, and the power of perception. Develop some system of annotation such as drawing arrows, colored POST-ITS, or color-coding to track similarities between the books.**

A good reader and a successful Honors student takes notes while reading. These notes will be instrumental in completing assignments, projects, and essays when you return in the fall; however, they will neither be collected nor graded. A suggested format for commenting on quotes and their significance is on the reverse of this paper.

Enjoy the summer. I look forward to meeting you and discussing these books with you.

Book: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Meaningful Quotations/Page Number</u> (Annotate and identify key words within the quote)	<u>Commentary and Analysis</u> (Explain the importance of the quote and the key words identified)