



## ENGLISH 2 SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT



Reading Selection: *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

Students must purchase a hard copy of the book and bring it to class on the first day.  
Be prepared to complete an essay response assignment during the first week of classes.

**Assignment: Complete the following TWO expectations for your summer reading assignment.**

1. ANNOTATED COPY OF THE BOOK
2. DIALECTICAL JOURNAL

### 1. Annotating and Close Reading:

Students must demonstrate evidence of reading and actively engaging with the text. You will be required to bring your annotated copy of the book to class on the first day.

NOTE: See handout that follows called “*ENGLISH II SUMMER READING TIPS - CLOSE READING and ANNOTATING TEXT*” for helpful information.

### 2. Dialectical Journal:

#### *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

As you read, use a chart to identify quotes or passages that speak to you. Write the passage or quote, give the page number and make a comment or ask a question about the chosen passage. This chart should have at least 15 passages. Use passages that represent the entire novel. .

**Example** from *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai

Passages from the book	Pg #s	Comments & questions
<b>Example:</b> “Malala will be free as a bird.” I dreamed of going to the top of Mount Elum like Alexander the Great to touch Jupiter and even beyond the valley . . . I wondered how free a daughter could ever be.”	26	It seems that Malala was destined to be equal and as free as her brothers, but her gender clearly makes her question her capabilities. I’m curious as to the freedoms that she will achieve. (Ms. Wargo)

## **ENGLISH II SUMMER READING TIPS**

### **CLOSE READING and ANNOTATING TEXT**

**What is close reading?** Close reading is thoughtful, active, critical reading of a text that focuses on significant details or patterns in order to develop a deep, precise understanding of the text's form, craft, meanings, etc.

#### **What is annotating?**

Think of annotations as “**showing your work**” while you read. You are showing what you are thinking while you read. Thinking is how you connect to the text. This, of course, requires ACTIVE participation with the text, engaging your mind while you read, not skimming the page. Marking important sections can also be helpful in locating them quickly in discussions. What the reader gets from annotating is a deeper initial reading and an understanding of the text that lasts. You deliberately engage the author in conversation and questions.

#### **How and what do I annotate?**

The possibilities are limitless. Keep in mind the reasons we annotate. Your annotations must include comments. Remember that the purpose is to indicate evidence of thinking.

- Have a conversation with the text. Talk back to it.
- Ask questions (essential to active reading).
- Comment on the actions or development of a character. Does the character change? Why? How? The result?
- Comment on lines / quotations you think are especially significant, powerful, or meaningful.
- Express agreement or disagreement.
- Summarize key events. Make predictions.
- Connect ideas to each other or to other texts.
- Note if you experience an epiphany.
- Note anything you would like to discuss in class or do not understand.
- Note how the author uses language and crafts the text:

**How can I create successful annotations?** You should use any technique that works for you! Here are two suggested ideas:

- **Highlighter Pen and Pencil:** A highlighter allows you to mark exactly what interests you. While you read, highlight whatever seems to be key information. At first, you will probably highlight too little or too much; with experience, you will choose more effectively which material to highlight. Then, use a **pencil to write your comments in the margins of the text**. A pencil is better than a pen because you can make changes. Even geniuses make mistakes, temporary comments, and incomplete notes.
  - **NOTE:** Be sure to write notes so that when you go back to review your highlighted passages, you remember exactly why you chose it. If the margins are not large enough, consider writing a number in the margins and then keeping a notebook with comments by corresponding number.
- **Sticky Notes:** Using sticky notes allows you to easily flip through the text and find passages to share. You might even consider color coding them in a way that works for you (yellow=character development; blue=imagery, figurative language, tone; green=symbols)

**Won't this take a long time?** The most common complaint about annotating is that it slows down your reading. Yes, it does. That's the point. If annotating as you read annoys you, read a chapter, then go back and annotate. Reading a text a second time is preferable anyway.

***Approach the work with an open mind.  
Let the literature inspire you and stretch your imagination!***