Summer Assignments

Authority and Rebellion Students
Episcopal Collegiate School



Required: Read *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley (ISBN 9780060850524)

For our summer reading, Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* will introduce you to the genre of **dystopian literature**—stories set in imagined futures where society may seem perfect, but that perfection is maintained through control, conformity, and the loss of individuality. As you read, consider how this text invites you to think about who you are, and how you can develop a voice that is truly your own rather than one handed to you by the world around you.

Recommended:

- **Annotate with care.** As you read this novel, think about the questions below:
  - Who holds the power in the novel?
  - What criticism does Huxley make about his present-day society?
  - Where do you recognize the **characteristics of a dystopia** in the novel?
    - Propaganda is used to control citizens, and information, thought, and freedom are restricted.
    - Citizens of the society worship a figurehead or concept.
    - Citizens are perceived to be under constant surveillance.
    - Citizens live in fear of the outside world.
    - Citizens live in a dehumanized state.
    - The natural world is banished and distrusted.
    - Citizens conform to uniform expectations. Individuality and dissent are bad.

Questions? Email Simon Gooch at sgooch@episcopalcollegiate.org