DEER VALLEY
Unified School District

**Mountain Ridge High School**
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MOUNTAIN RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Guardians and AP Literature Students:

This summer, the AP English Literature class will be collectively reading Anthony Burgess' *A Clockwork Orange*. This novel centers on the thematic ideas of choices and, subsequently, their consequences.

What really makes this work an excellent choice for academic rigor is not only the way in which it is written, but the fact that it is unlike anything your student has experienced before. This experience is designed to challenge them but also to prepare them for new perspectives and formats than more traditional novels afford.

Upon returning from summer break, we will be discussing this novel and using it as the basis for the start of our semester together. The novel has instances of adult language and/or situations; however, the author being examined is not intending to shock, offend, or cause controversy. Rather, Burgess is trying to adequately portray the circumstances, both positive and negative, that a choice can have on someone. We have specifically chosen this novel for the educational merits in understanding human nature, the choices we make, and the consequences that subsequently follow. As such, we will be analyzing the thematic and stylistic elements and arguments presented by both novels in a highly educational and structured format.

This novel is a mandatory assignment for a student's ability to start AP Literature for the 2026-2027 school year. If you have any questions or concerns about the materials your student will be reading, We am happy to work with you. If need be, We can offer alternative reading with the understanding that class discussion and assistance will be based on the original novels only; if this is the case, please contact me as soon as possible. I can be reached periodically throughout the summer at **joshua.payne@dvusd.org & merry.gordon@dvusd.org.** By signing this letter of acknowledgment, you understand the novels your student will be reading and analyzing for the mandatory summer project of AP Literature and throughout the course.

Please be aware that their summer novel must be read before the first day of class; there will be no time for them to get caught up. The students will be assessed the first day and soon after based on these particular readings.

We appreciate your support and we look forward to working with your students.

You've been great; We've been:

Joshua A. Payne & Merry Gordon
AP Literature Instructors
joshua.payne@dvusd.org & merry.gordon@dvusd.org

Student Name Printed: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____