Summer Reading Assignment Directions for Honors and Traditional English IV

Traditional

You will read *Murder on the Orient Express* and answer the questions listed on paper in pen. The assignment is due the first Friday of school. A link to the book is in the folder where this document can be found. An audio link is also provided at the end of the questions.

1. Who did you think the murderer was when you were reading the book? Were you able to solve the mystery before Poirot did, or were you surprised when Poirot revealed the culprits?
2. If you had to rewrite Murder on the Orient Express for the 21st century, where would you set it, and why?
3. Poirot relies mainly on psychology and logic to solve crimes. How is detective work different today?
4. If you were a character on the Orient Express, who would you be, and why?
5. Why did Agatha Christie set the murder on a train? What does the train symbolize in the novel?
6. How is the diversity of American society shown through the passengers? How does this diversity create an interesting and unusual case for Poirot?
7. Name two comedic characters in *Murder on the Orient Express*. How are they comedic and how do they help propel the plot?
8. One issue that is alluded to in Christie's novel is the role that prejudice and profiling play in criminal investigation. M. Bouc, in particular, is quick to assign characters guilt or innocence based on what he perceives as the characteristics of their nationality. What steps have been taken to end racial profiling today? What still needs to be done?
9. What is the difference between revenge and justice?
10. Were the murderers justified in killing Mr. Ratchett?
11. Why did Poirot choose not to report the crime and punish the criminals?

Link to audio for *Murder on the Orient Express*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ET28V67JFmA

Honors

You will read BOTH *Murder on the Orient Express* and *1984.*

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1. Who did you think the murderer was when you were reading the book? Were you able to solve the mystery before Poirot did, or were you surprised when Poirot revealed the culprits?
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6. How is the diversity of American society shown through the passengers? How does this diversity create an interesting and unusual case for Poirot?
7. Name two comedic characters in *Murder on the Orient Express*. How are they comedic and how do they help propel the plot?
8. One issue that is alluded to in Christie's novel is the role that prejudice and profiling play in criminal investigation. M. Bouc, in particular, is quick to assign characters guilt or innocence based on what he perceives as the characteristics of their nationality. What steps have been taken to end racial profiling today? What still needs to be done?
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1984 Assignment

You MUST have a **physical copy** of the book. If you get a library book, you will need to check it out a few times. Use post it notes for your annotations and for information that you are to put on the inside covers. The assignment is due the first Friday of school.

1. Read and Annotate. A note on annotating: annotating not only serves to keep you active in the reading process, but it allows you to leave a trail of breadcrumbs behind so that you can find textual evidence during class discussions and for writing assignments. Be prepared to turn in your novel on the first day of class. For the sake of standardization of annotating for class and for grading purposes, your annotations should include the following:

-On the inside cover of your novel, a list of characters (5-6) as they are introduced. Include physical, emotional, and situational details & page numbers for your future reference.

- Track themes & character traits (see specific descriptions below) using color-coordinated post-it notes throughout

- How the Party takes control of ethos, pathos, and logos to dominate their populace

- The nature of rebellion

- How freedom, love, and personal safety intersect

-Essential: How Orwell was satirizing his own contemporary world/How his satire remains relevant--You will have to do some research into Orwell's time period in order to understand this!!!

- On the inside back cover of your novel, write at least 10 words introduced by Orwell like newspeak, INGSOC, doublethink, etc.

2. Trace 2 themes using colored post-it notes. Find 4 occurrences throughout the novel that illustrate these themes. You will have a total of 8 post-it notes for this part of the assignment; write the theme on the post-it note.

▪ Power of words/Identity

▪ Government Control versus Free Will

▪ Loyalty and Betrayal

▪ Patriotism and Propaganda

▪ Appearances versus Reality

3. Choose 1 character to follow and analyze.

Gather 6 quotes or examples from the text (give p. #) to use as evidence that provides insight into your character. Write out by hand in PEN ONLY and turn in during the first day of class. Things to look for include traits, relationships, motivations, fears, and how (or if) they develop over the course of the text. Choose from the following character list:

• Winston Smith (address instances that reveal his fear of the government) • Julia • O'Brien

4. Be prepared to take a reading comprehension quiz and to write an in-class essay during the first weeks of school.

Link to audio for *1984*

https://youtu.be/uleGZZWwdIY?si=x7VCflVYuc4imKaj