Cohasset High School Grade 9 Summer Reading

All students entering ninth grade must read George Orwell's *Animal Farm*.

1. As you read, take handwritten notes on a separate sheet of paper for every page of the text. Write at least 3 brief annotations per page. Use the example below as a guide.

2. Additionally, consider the guiding questions below and write down textual evidence that connects to each. Try to write down at least 3 quotes for each guiding question.

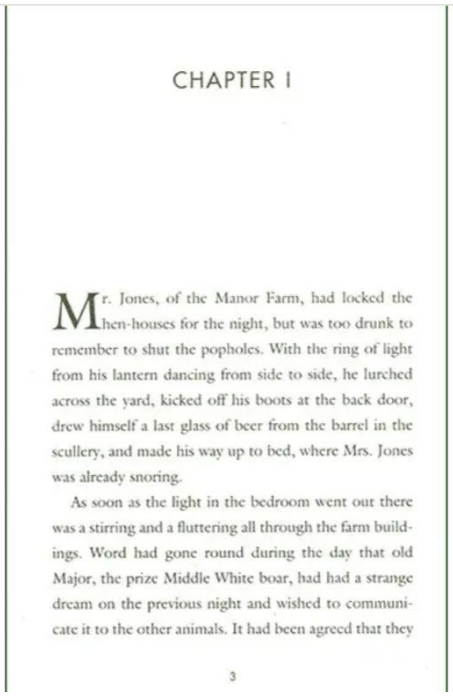
3. Be prepared to share at least 4 of your own thoughts about the novel during class discussion. Remember, you're in the driver's seat. Think about the characters, setting, plot and the author's point of view.

4. Do **not** research the novel on the internet because teachers are interested only in your authentic reaction to the text.

5. The book will be the basis for a formal, **in-class writing assignment** to be completed during the first week of school.

***Animal Farm* Guiding questions**

1. What causes individuals to rise up and rebel?
2. What prevailing conditions cause revolt?
3. What is the nature of power, and how do individuals get/take it and use or abuse it?
4. What are the qualities of a good leader?
5. How does revolution affect individuals- rich and poor, leaders and followers?
6. How can we identify examples of governmental abuse in our world?



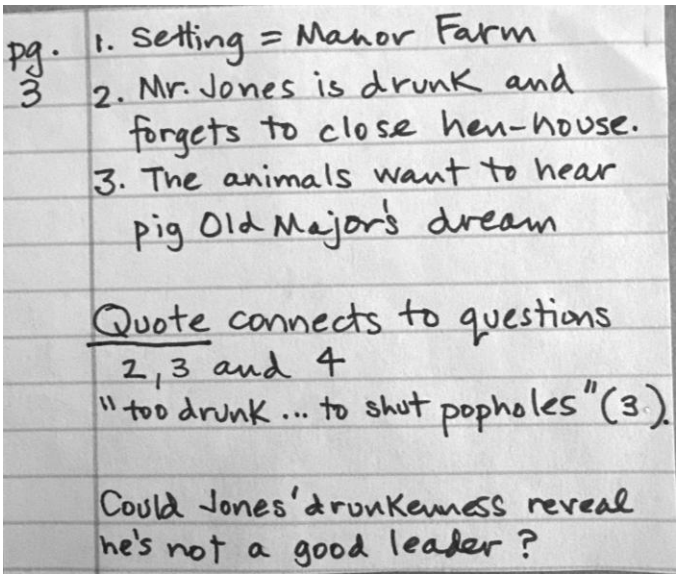
CHAPTER I

Mr. Jones, of the Manor Farm, had locked the hen-houses for the night, but was too drunk to remember to shut the popholes. With the ring of light from his lantern dancing from side to side, he lurched across the yard, kicked off his boots at the back door, drew himself a last glass of beer from the barrel in the scullery, and made his way up to bed, where Mrs. Jones was already snoring.

As soon as the light in the bedroom went out there was a stirring and a fluttering all through the farm buildings. Word had gone round during the day that old Major, the prize Middle White boar, had had a strange dream on the previous night and wished to communicate it to the other animals. It had been agreed that they

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Sample Handwritten Annotations:



pg. 3
1. Setting = Manor Farm
2. Mr. Jones is drunk and forgets to close hen-house.
3. The animals want to hear pig Old Major's dream

Quote connects to questions 2, 3 and 4
"too drunk ... to shut popholes" (3).

Could Jones' drunkenness reveal he's not a good leader?

READING CHOICES:

College Prep students must choose **one** book from the following list. This second book will also be the basis for a formal, **in-class writing assignment** to be completed during the first week of school.

Accelerated students must choose **two** books from the following list. One book will be the basis for a formal, **in-class writing assignment** to be completed during the first week of school. The second book will be the basis of a thematic project to be completed during the first two weeks of school.

Black Boy **by Richard Wright / autobiography ***

Published in 1945, this autobiography is considered one of Wright's finest works. *Black Boy* describes vividly Wright's often harsh, hardscrabble boyhood and youth in rural Mississippi and in Memphis, Tenn. When the work was first published, many white critics viewed *Black Boy* primarily as an attack on racist Southern white society. From the 1960s the work came to be understood as the story of Wright's coming of age and development as a writer whose race, though a primary component of his life, was but one of many that formed him as an artist. *Black Boy* is Wright's powerful account of his journey from innocence to experience in the Jim Crow South. It is at once an unashamed confession and a profound indictment—a poignant and disturbing record of social injustice and human suffering. –Amazon.com

A Farewell to Arms **by Ernest Hemingway / fiction ***

This is the story of Lieutenant Henry, an American, and Catherine Barkley, a British nurse. The two meet in Italy, and almost immediately Hemingway sets up the central tension of the novel: the tenuous nature of love in a time of war. -Library Thing

Maus**:** ***A Survivor's Tale Volume One: My Father Bleeds*** **by Art Spiegelman / graphic novel ***

Some historical events simply beggar any attempt at description--the Holocaust is one of these. Therefore, as it recedes and the people able to bear witness die, it becomes more and more essential that novel, vigorous methods are used to describe the indescribable. Examined in these terms, Art Spiegelman's Maus is a tremendous achievement, from a historical perspective as well as an artistic one. Spiegelman, a stalwart of the underground comics scene of the 1960s and '70s, interviewed his father, Vladek, a Holocaust survivor living outside New York City, about his experiences. The artist then deftly translated that story into a graphic novel. By portraying a true story of the Holocaust in comic form--the Jews are mice, the Germans cats, the Poles pigs, the French frogs, and the Americans dogs--Spiegelman compels the reader to imagine the action, to fill in the blanks that are so often shied away from. Reading Maus, you are forced to examine the Holocaust anew. –Library Thing

The Color of Water **by James McBride / memoir ***

This book is, indeed, a tribute to the author's mother. In it, the author, a man whose mother was white and his father black, tells two stories: that of his mother and his own. Tautly written in spare, clear prose, it is a wonderful story of a bi-racial family who succeeded and achieved the American dream, despite the societal obstacles placed in its way. –Lawyer Aau

The Kite Runner **by Khaled Hosseini / fiction ***

Amir is the son of a wealthy Kabul merchant, a member of the ruling caste of Pashtuns. Hassan, his servant and constant companion, is a Hazara, a despised and impoverished caste. Their uncommon bond is torn by Amir's choice to abandon his friend amidst the increasing ethnic, religious, and political tensions of the

* *Works may contain some mature content.*

dying years of the Afghan monarchy, wrenching them far apart. But so strong is the bond between the two boys that Amir journeys back to a distant world, to try to right past wrongs against the only true friend he ever had. The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, *The Kite Runner* is a beautifully crafted novel set in a country that is in the process of being destroyed. It is about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and an exploration of the power of fathers over sons—their love, their sacrifices, their lies. --GoodReads.com

A Day No Pigs Would Die **by Robert Newton Peck / fictionalized autobiography**

Robert Newton Peck weaves a story of a Vermont boyhood that is part fiction, part memoir. The result is a moving coming-of-age story that still resonates. Twelve-year-old Rob is growing up on a dirt-poor farm in Vermont in the 1930s. His parents have become Shakers and their way of life and values make for some interesting listening and discussion as Rob faces the anguish of loss and learns lifelong lessons about family love and a caring community. –BarnesandNobel.com

The Power of One **by Bryce Courtenay / fictionalized memoir**

In 1939, hatred took root in South Africa, where the seeds of apartheid were newly sown. There a boy called Peekay was born. His childhood was marked by humiliation and abandonment, yet he vowed to survive. He would become welterweight champion of the world; he would dream heroic dreams. But his dreams were nothing compared to what awaited him. For he embarked on an epic journey where he would learn the power of words, the power to transform lives, and the mystical power that would sustain him even when it appeared that villainy would rule the world: The Power of One. –BarnesandNobel.com

A Raisin in the Sun **by Lorraine Hansberry / drama**

A Raisin in the Sun was produced in New York City in 1959. Hansberry creates the story of the Youngers, a struggling, African-American family whose members deal with poverty, racism, and painful conflict among themselves as they reach for a better life. Hansberry balances grim drama, comic moments, and redemptive love as the play unfolds. Set in the aftermath of World War II, the Younger family is facing its own war against racism in the Chicago slums. America's complicated history of racial tension between black Americans and white Americans is ingrained into the Youngers' everyday lives. –Amazon.com

Anthem **by Ayn Rand / fiction**

This is a starkly told tale of a member of a future society, one Equality 7-2521. He is raised in a communal nursery. He knows no parents, no individuality. The word WE applies to one and all. His unquenchable thirst for freedom and thought leads him to a monumental and dangerous discovery; the word "I". From this word, all things become possible. This creates the atmosphere for a society so bereft of freedom and dignity that even the most basic ideas of society and individual meaning are lost. –Amazon.com

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time **by Mark Haddon / fiction**

Mark Haddon's bitterly funny debut novel, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, is a murder mystery of sorts--one told by an autistic version of Adrian Mole. Fifteen-year-old Christopher John Francis Boone is mathematically gifted and socially hopeless, raised in a working-class home by parents who can barely cope with their child's quirks. He takes everything that he sees (or is told) at face value and is unable to sort out the strange behavior of his elders and peers. –Amazon.com

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