



Tenth Grade Summer Reading 2025

Dear World Lit II students:

I look forward to a productive and energetic 2025-26! I want to build on the foundations you established last year in World Lit I and continue to push you further in your analysis of literature.

I am going to ask you to read two books over the summer, *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury and one you choose from a set list. All of these books are considered dystopias; a fictional society where there is great suffering or injustice. I think it's important to read both *Fahrenheit 451* to see how the genre you've come to know (Hunger Games, Maze Runner, Divergent, etc.) both started and has changed over time.

ASSIGNMENT #1 (*Fahrenheit 451*):

Because I have consistently found that seminar discussions work best when they are grounded in specific textual passages, I request that you select **three** scenes from Bradbury (**30-40 lines** per scene is just fine) -- scenes that, in your view, shed light on one or another of the novel's larger aims. (The book is split into three sections, so please choose one passage from each section of the novel.) Please identify the opening and closing words of your selected scenes in the following manner:

Bradbury, *F451*: "The sight of it . . . down the street" (39-40).

In addition, please provide a short paragraph of 5-7 sentences that indicate *why* you find these passages of particular interest. I've included an example of what each of your 3 passages should look like. Do not just say things like "this section was really intense and moved the plot along" . . . I'm looking for analysis where you connect the section to a larger theme from the book you've identified.

Sample:

Bradbury, *F451*: "The sight of it . . . down the street" (39-40).

While not terribly dramatic, this scene does illustrate one of the key motifs in the novel--namely, how fire can serve as a "spectacle," a "show." In fact, I believe that social control is achieved not merely by starting fires but by having those fires *watched*. For this reason, Montag calling attention to the timing of the fires ("Always at night . . .") is particularly relevant, since such fires will be perceived as "prettier."

Notice that my analysis write-up for the sample is not just summarizing the quote, but explaining HOW it connects to a larger theme and purpose of the novel. This is what I want to see from you as well. Please do something like that **three times** for Bradbury's novel and we should be off to a fine start.

Assignment #2 (Choice Book):

Cinderella is Dead by Kalynn Bayron – It's 200 years after Cinderella met the prince, and the happily-ever-after of the fairytale has ended. The Annual Ball still exists though, and girls are forced to attend. Men of the kingdom select their future wives at the Ball, and the girls who aren't chosen vanish. Sophia would rather marry her best friend Erin and she ends up running away the night of the ball.

Girls with Sharp Sticks by Suzanne Young - This is the first book in a dystopian series that takes place at Innovations Academy, an all-girls private school where the students are expected to be perfect. However, the girls start to realize that there are some dark secrets hovering just under the surface.

Scythe by Neal Shusterman - A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery: humanity has conquered all those things, and has even conquered death. Now Scythes are the only ones who can end life—and they are commanded to do so, in order to keep the size of the population under control.

In a 1-2 page response:

- What are the main character's traits and strengths? How do these help the character navigate and challenge the dystopian society? Explain.
- How does the dystopian setting impact the characters in your book? How does it impact their relationships? Explain with examples.
- How do characters in your book resist or rebel against rules, control, or the status quo? Think about small acts of rebellion AND organized resistance efforts. Explain with examples.

If you've got any questions whatsoever, please don't hesitate to contact me.

All the best!

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BOOKS for our course:

- *Chronicles of a Death Foretold* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez (ISBN 9781400034710)
- *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare (ISBN 9780743477109)
- *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley (ISBN 9780141439471)
- *Refugees* by Viet Thanh Nguyen (ISBN 9780802127365)
- *In the Time of Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez (ISBN 9781565129764)
- *The Cellist of Sarajevo* by Steven Galloway (ISBN 9781594483653)