

Due Tues 1/14: Independent Reading Proposal: Review the [Independent Reading Recommended Book List](#) for this trimester and explore your options. You may choose a book from the list, or any book of your own choice that is speculative fiction and connects with this trimester's theme of space & time, which can be widely interpreted. Acquire a copy of the book from your local library, the school (if we have it), or wherever you like to get your books. Divide the book you chose for independent reading into 3 sections. Choose the closest chapter break between the sections as your stopping place for the week. Then created a schedule with page numbers for completion according to the timeline below to read and write a 2+ page response for each section. At the end, you will then write a book review to share with the class as well as a short essay about your book. Email me (maryannu@school-one.org) the title and author of your chosen book, the breakdown of page numbers and/or chapters on the timeline, and a brief explanation of why you chose this book and how it relates to the theme of the class.

Due Tuesday 1/21: Response 1: Section 1 of Independent Reading & Response

Due Tuesday 1/28: Response 2: Section 2 of Independent Reading & Response

Due Tuesday 2/4: Response 3: Section 3 of Independent Reading & Response (Finish book)

Due Tuesday 2/11: Book Review (Guidelines forthcoming)

Due Tuesday 2/18: Independent Reading Essay (Guidelines forthcoming)

Response Guidelines: As you read, take notes of points of interest and quotes with page numbers. Don't write in the book (unless it's yours), but sticky tabs can help keep track of pages to refer back to in discussion and essays. Then write a 2-3 page informal reflection for each section detailing your thoughts & reactions to the reading. You don't need to summarize the reading, but make sure to talk about points from the whole section to demonstrate you've completed the full reading. These are not structured formal essays, but open-ended explorations of the text that can help you engage with the book and formulate your ideas.

Consider the following guiding questions:

- What's your general impression of what's happening? What themes are emerging/developing and how? Examples? Are there parts you're confused by? What questions do you have?
- What are the speculative elements of the book? How does the author play with notions of space and time and what effect does this have on the reader? What do you make of these concepts? What themes are explored and what do these stories reveal about humanity? How does the speculative approach help elucidate these ideas?
- What in the reading spoke to you? What could you relate to or learn from? Are there any particular quotes that stood out as interesting? Why? Explain.

CONTINUED . . .

- What do you notice about the characters? How would you describe their personalities? Their desires? Their fears? The challenges they face or have faced? Their relationships with each other? Their conflicts with either themselves or others?
- What do you notice about the time period and setting? What is the context for the book?
- What do you notice about the plot arc? What's the timeline? Is it linear and consecutive, or some other path through time? Why do you think the author makes these choices? Does the reading experience grab your attention or does it wane in parts? Explain.
- What do you notice about the point of view and narrative voice? Is the story told from the first person or third person? Is the narrator reliable? What effect does this have on the reader's experience? Why do you think the author made these choices?
- What do you notice about the style of writing? What techniques does the author use to get across themes and set the tone and mood? Do you find them effective? Why or why not?