

## Summer Reading: Advanced Placement

### Dreams and Dystopias

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#### What is our summer reading task?

1. Skim the book *Dream of a Nation*. Select one chapter that is most interesting to you; read all the articles and infographics in that chapter thoroughly and take notes. You may write in this book—annotate, use sticky notes, and/or highlight. This book is yours to keep. [ <http://dreamofanation.org> is the book's website, for additional information]

One of our first discussions will be about how the language of our dreams shapes our future. Be prepared to summarize the dreams of the authors represented in the chapter you selected. Bring up any questions you have as you think about that issue.

2. Read any dystopian novel. Browse for a title that is most intriguing to you; any format is fine—print, electronic, graphic, or audio. Think about what criticism the author is making about a trend, societal norm or political system. You may need to do research about the author or the year the book was written to really “get it.” Take notes as you think about the meaning of the work as a whole.

A resource at Read/Write/Think.org defines dystopia in contrast to utopia:

Utopia: A place, state, or condition that is ideally perfect in respect of politics, laws, customs, and conditions.

Dystopia: A futuristic, imagined universe in which oppressive societal control and the illusion of a perfect society are maintained through corporate, bureaucratic, technological, moral, or totalitarian control. Dystopias, through an exaggerated worst-case scenario, make a criticism about a current trend, societal norm, or political system.

#### Characteristics of a Dystopian Society

- Propaganda is used to control the citizens of society
- Information, independent thought, and freedom are restricted
- A figurehead or concept is worshipped by the citizens of the society.
- Citizens are perceived to be under constant surveillance.
- Citizens have a fear of the outside world.
- Citizens live in a dehumanized state.
- The natural world is banished and distrusted.
- Citizens conform to uniform expectations. Individuality and dissent are bad.
- The society is an illusion of a perfect utopian world.

Your reading will be assessed in several ways: your participation in discussions, group work, a reflection written in school, and a timed writing essay.

Suggested titles may be found on the reverse of this page.

Suggested titles include, but are not limited to:

*1984* (George Orwell)

*2001: A Space Odyssey* (Arthur C. Clarke)

*A Canticle for Liebowitz* (Walter M. Miller)

*A Clockwork Orange* (Anthony Burgess)

*A Handmaid's Tale* (Margaret Atwood)

*Alas, Babylon* (Pat Frank)

*Anthem* (Ayn Rand)

*Battle Royale* (Koushun Takami)

*Blindness* (Jose Saramago)

*Brave New World* (Aldous Huxley)

*Cat's Cradle* (Kurt Vonnegut)

*Cloud Atlas* (David Mitchell)

*Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* (Philip K. Dick)

*Ella Minnow Pea* (Mark Dunn)

*Fatherland* (Robert Harris)

*Feed* (M.T. Anderson)

*Gattaca* (Andrew Niccol)

*Gulliver's Travels* (Jonathan Swift)

*Infinite Jest* (David Foster Wallace)

*Jennifer Government* (Max Barry)

*Lexicon* (Max Barry)

*Logan's Run* (William F. Nolan & George Clayton Johnson)

*Lord of the Flies* (William Golding)

*The Running Man* (Richard Bachman/ Stephen King)

*Neuromancer* (William Gibson)

*Never Let Me Go* (Kazuo Ishiguro)

*Oryx and Crake* (Margaret Atwood)

*Parable of the Talents* (Octavia E. Butler)

*Planet of the Apes* (Pierre Boulle)

*Player Piano* (Kurt Vonnegut)

*R.U.R.* (Karel Capek)

*That Hideous Strength* (C.S. Lewis)

*The American War* (Omar El Akkad)

*The Chrysalids* (John Wyndham)

*The Circle* (Dave Eggers)

*The City and The City* (China Miéville)

*The City of Gold and Lead* (John Christopher)

*The Drowned World* (J.G. Ballard)

*The Girl with All the Gifts* (M. L. Carey)

*The House of Scorpion* (Nancy Farmer)

*The Iron Dream* (Norman Spinrad)

*The Iron Heel* (Jack London)

*The Lathe of Heaven* (Ursula K. Leguin)

*The Man in the High Castle* (Philip K. Dick)

*The Passage* (Justin Cronin)

*The Road* (Cormac McCarthy)

*The Stand* (Stephen King)

*The Time Machine* (H.G. Wells)

*The Unit* (Ninni Holmqvist)

*Unwind* (Neal Shusterman)

*The Windup Girl* (Paolo Bacigalupi)

*Woman on the Edge of Time* (Marge Piercy)

*Uglies* (Scott Westerfield)

*Underworld* (Don DeLillo)

*We* (Yevgeny Zamayatin)