9th Grade Honors SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS

You will be working on 2 assignments. You will be reading Animal Farm by George Orwell and a student selected choice from the suggested reading list.

Assignment: Animal Farm—George Orwell

It is due the first day of school, Wednesday, August 19, 2015. Be prepared to take a test on this book the first week of school. You may use this assignment on the test.

Section 1: Characterization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character Name</th>
<th>Physical traits</th>
<th>Personality traits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Mr. Jones</td>
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<td>2. Old Major</td>
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<td>3. Benjamin</td>
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<td>4. Boxer</td>
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<td>5. Clover</td>
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<td>6. Mollie</td>
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<td>7. Moses</td>
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<td>8. Dogs</td>
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<td>9. Napoleon</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Snowball</td>
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Section 2: study guide questions. Please answer in complete sentences: your answers may be handwritten or typed.

1. *Animalism*: What is it, and how is it developed?

2. *Sugarcandy Mountain*: What is it, and how do the animals feel about this place?

3. The Seven Commandments: Go back to chapter one and look at Old Major’s speech? What has been changed or left out of the commandments? What might be the reason for these changes?

4. “Four legs good, two legs bad.” Why would the Seven Commandments be reduced to this?

5. *Propaganda*: What rumors are spread about “Manor Farm”?

6. *The Battle of Cowshed*: How is it commemorated? Why would it be important for the animals to commemorate it in this way?


8. What point of view is the story being told from? Who does the narrator appear to be? What effect do you think Orwell is going for when the narrator presents events as this on the first page of the chapter?

9. Why is Snowball the perfect scapegoat for all of the problems on Animal Farm?

10. Describe how the final scene points out the horrible irony of the book.

Section 3: Historical Context: Read these biographies about Stalin (Napoleon) and Trotsky (Snowball).

**Joseph Stalin**

Stalin was born Ioseb Besarionis dze Jughashvili on 18 December 1878 but later adopted the name of Stalin - which in Russia means man of steel. In his early life, he was drawn Communist ideology and became involved in robberies and violence against Tsarist sympathizers. Stalin was frequently captured and sent to Siberia, but, he managed to escape. In 1917, Stalin played a key role in the Russian revolution he gained control over the party newspaper Pravda and helped Lenin to escape to Finland. Stalin was one of the five member politburo whom Lenin appointed in the Russian civil war against anti-Bolshevik policies. Stalin frequently clashed with Leon Trotsky and Stalin advocated harsh measures to ensure discipline and loyalty. In 1922, Lenin fell ill and Stalin became one of the main links between Lenin and the outside world. Lenin became increasingly distrustful of Stalin, disliking his arrogance and love of power. In Lenin's testimony he wanted Stalin removed from power. However, with great skill Stalin formed alliance's with other key Communist party members, He outmaneuvered Trotsky and had him expelled from the Soviet Union. On the death of Lenin, Stalin was able to assume the position as leader of the Soviet Union. He quickly strove to consolidate his power removing anyone he suspected of being disloyal. In the 1930s, he unleashed a great wave of purges which led to the capture, torture and execution of many prominent members of the party, army and society. These purges went far beyond suspected disloyal members but became increasingly random - as if to strike fear into the heart of anyone in society. It is estimated In light of revelations from the Soviet archives, historians now estimate that nearly 700,000
people (353,074 in 1937 and 328,612 in 1938) died during these purges. In 1939, Stalin shocked the world with the signing of the Nazi-Soviet pact which agreed non-aggression and also in secret agreed to carve up Poland. When Germany attacked Poland on 1st September 1939, the Soviet Union also attacked in the East. When Stalin was warned of an impending invasion in 1941, Stalin couldn't believe that Adolf Hitler would attack the Soviet Union. When German forces streamed over the border, the Soviet Union was almost defenseless and German forces swept through the country reaching almost the outskirts of Moscow by 1942. However, at Stalingrad the tide of battle was turned and slowly Russian forces pushed back the Germans beginning the long push back into Germany. Stalin took close command of the war and went to great lengths to portray himself as the heroic war leader. He was ruthless as Supreme military commander, often having Generals shot if they lost a battle. He also made armies dig in and refuse to retreat. However, with great loss of life, the Soviet Union were finally able to prevail. When the German army was at the gates of Moscow in 1942, Stalin refused to leave, and his presence in the city, helped to maintain hope. The Germany occupation of Western Soviet Union was brutal with millions being killed by the occupying forces. As the Russian army liberated their own country and saw numerous accounts of atrocities, they in turn committed atrocities in their conquest of Germany. Even Soviet citizens who survived the German occupation, were often arrested and deported on Stalin's orders. He believed that many in the occupied zone had collaborated with the Germans. After the end of the Second World War, Stalin became desperate to get the Nuclear bomb, after seeing its devastating effects in Japan. This became more important as the end of the Second World War gave way to the Cold War between the US and Soviet Block. Stalin died in 1953 after suffering a stroke. Pettinger, Tejvan. "Biography of Stalin", Oxford, www.biographyonline.net, 21st Aug. 2008

Leon Trotsky

After being imprisoned for years in Siberia, and being exiled from Russia when Joseph Stalin became the new leader of Russia, Leon Trotsky started his political career when he became the leader of the October Revolution of 1917. He was later appointed the commissar of foreign affairs under Vladimir Ilich Lenin. His writings display his deep philosophical beliefs as a theorist for fundamental communism, but later he leaned towards social democratization. Trotsky was born into a Jewish family. His father was David Bronshtein and his mother was highly educated. He was the only one of their children to survive infancy. Although the family was of the middle class, young Leon was sent to study in Odessa – a formal education was a central part of his parents’ belief. Over the course of nearly 10 years, Trotsky lived with his cousins, who were open-minded intellectuals. While completing his education, he was made aware of the theories of Marxism and thereafter helped form the South Russian Workers’ Union. Within two years of the turn of the 20th century, Trotsky was sent to serve a four-year sentence in Siberia for his revolutionary connections. While there, he married and had two daughters, whom he would never see once he escaped with forged papers under the name Trotsky and thereafter went to London. While in Paris he had two more sons after marrying Natalya Sedova. He went to Brussels supporting his party, but his theories had evolved by this point to a form of democratic socialism. Soon after, Trotsky moved back to his homeland and became the leader of a workers’ party that was in favor of revolution. Trotsky was again jailed and while there wrote some of his most renowned political essays. He escaped Siberia again and went to Vienna, where he worked during the Balkan Wars. He joined up with the social democrats once more and was forced to leave France and Spain due to his beliefs against the war. Upon returning to Russia, Trotsky was admitted into the Bolshevik Party, even though he had been jailed again. He was released and made chairman of the Petrograd Soviet of Workers’ and Soldiers’ Deputies. When Trotsky wanted to argue against accepting terms from Germany for annexation, Lenin wanted to have more time to get the Soviet state in order, but Trotsky wanted nothing to do with resolving the issue, although he didn’t want war either. What eventually occurred was the Russian Civil War and the expectation that Trotsky's leadership would revive the economy with militaristic precision. When Lenin knew that his time to lead Russia would be short, he asked for Trotsky’s help in getting Russia’s foreign policy back in order. By 1928,
Trotsky was exiled again and eventually ended up in Mexico, where he was assassinated according to Stalin’s plans. http://www.biographyshelf.com/leon_trotsky_biography.html

As always, if you need extra assistance please email: jafulton@desertchristianacademy.org

Assignment # 2 : Student Book Choice Selection

Your purpose for reading is to discover which elements of language these authors use and to what effect. You are ultimately studying STYLE and the components that comprise it. Style involves the author’s choice and arrangement of words in sentences (diction and syntax), the use of sensory and/or figurative language, the tone, and the mood. Look for such things as the length and complexity of the sentences; the use of words that are unusual or sophisticated or colloquial; and the use of elements such as allusion and irony. As you read think of adjectives that you could use to describe the author’s style. This assignment may be handwritten or typed.

Honors English 9 Suggested reading list: CHOOSE ONE
Blessed Child by Ted Dekker
Farewell to Manzanar by Jeanne Houston
Goodbye, Mr. Chips by James Hilton
Journey to the Center of the Earth by Jules Verne
Persuasion by Jane Austen
Rumble Fish by S.E. Hinton
Scarlet Pimpernel by Baroness Orczy
The Chosen by Chaim Potok
The Ishbane Conspiracy by Randy Alcorn
The Red Pony by John Steinbeck
Through Gates of Splendor by Elisabeth Elliot
Two Years before the Mast by Richard Dana

Assignment:
1. Write a brief summary followed by your reaction to the novel/nonfiction book and your brief identification of its major strengths/themes. In other words: What happens? What did you think? Why do think this work is (or at least is considered) important? (1-2 pages max.)

2. Create a Vocabulary Journal of words whose meanings are unfamiliar to you. Choose 15 words from your book. For each word use the following format to study the word.

1. Write the word
2. Copy the clause in which it appears and provide the page number.
3. Find a synonym for the word (use the thesaurus).
4. Write the dictionary definition that seems to apply to the way the word is used in the text.
5. Identify how the word functions in the text (part of speech: noun, verb, adjective, adverb) and record its alternate forms.

Example:
1. Word: tacit
2. Original sentence: "In the deep, tacit way in which feeling becomes stronger than thought, I had always felt..."
3. synonym: assumed
4. Dictionary definition: expressed or carried on without words or speech; unspoken
5. POS: adjective Derivatives: adverb: tacitly; noun: tacitness

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