

Freshman English Summer Reading Information

Teacher: Mrs. Benfer

Summer Reading: On-level students: Read *Animal Farm* by George Orwell.

Animal Farm, as the book jacket states, “is the most famous by far of all twentieth-century political allegories.” This story of a group of deceptively simple animals looking to change their status on the farm is also a dark allegory (a story that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one; similar to a parable or a fable) of the Russian Revolution. Although you may not be familiar with 1917 Russia or its totalitarian government, as you read, consider how the actions of the animals reflect elements of human nature throughout history.

Instructions: Read carefully for **detail and meaning**. Your teacher will be checking your books for annotations during the first days of the year, so read with a pen or pencil in your hand and make notes in your book as you read over the following:

- Characters and setting:
 - Mark character names and setting as they first appear
 - Make notes in the margins about characters, including each new character trait
- Literary Elements: Mark literary elements that you notice – allusions, symbols, figurative language, metaphors, similes, motifs, etc.
- Questions: In the margins, note anything that seems unclear or that you don't understand.
- Theme: Write notes about theme (the message the author is trying to present) in the margins or at the ends of chapters. What does the author want you to get from this book?
- Plot: Write notes at the tops of pages that indicate important events or thematic elements covered. Mark plot elements like exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.
- Summaries: As you finish each chapter, write a few bullet points that will remind you of the important elements of that chapter.

Supplies:

Bring these supplies with you on the first day of school to turn in to me:

- 1 box Kleenex **OR** 1 package pens/pencils/highlighters **OR** 1 package notebook paper **OR** 2 glue sticks
- 1 folder with brads AND pockets (for research only)

You will also need these personal supplies with you each day:

- 1" binder, accordion file, etc. to keep papers organized (you may share with other subjects if you like, but you will need 5 dividers for English)
- highlighters, pens, pencils
- small sticky notes (for marking passages in books)
- earbuds for when you have personal work time