

### Summer Reading Requirement

To prepare for the rigorous year ahead, carefully read the following three novels:

*Invisible Man* **Ralph Ellison** (NOT H.G. Wells)

*The Fountainhead* Ayn Rand

*The Power of One* Bryce Courtenay (*DO NOT* obtain abridged version!)

\*All of these texts have appeared on the AP Exam and/or are endorsed by the College Board

#### **DO NOT USE ONLINE (or other forms of) PLOT SUMMARIES OR GUIDES**

You must read carefully and well as the essential questions that arise out of these works will not only guide our discussion for the first few weeks of school, but will also form the basis for thematic discussions for the year. As you read, it is good practice to:

- Underline/annotate/mark the passages that you feel to be poignant and/or important for classroom discussion.
- Pay special attention to passages that you believe develop theme and character and/or will act as support for your essay assignment.

When you have completed the novels, compose a **1000-1500** word essay responding to the following prompt:

**All three novels deal with the conflict of individual identity vs. collective society. Write an essay that compares and contrasts the way each novel explores and presents this conflict and how this enhances the meaning/theme of each novel. You may want to pay attention (but don't be limited) to the individual drive for power- how characters struggle to free themselves from the power of others or seek to gain power over others-, the topic of superiority vs. inferiority, and the search for identity. Formulate a strong thesis statement and use direct reference to the novel to support your arguments. Your essay must follow MLA guidelines: Times New Roman/ 12 point font/ Double-spaced/1 inch margins, in-text citations, Works Cited page, etc.**

Keep in mind that your summer reading work will serve as a starting impression of your writing ability, higher-level thought process, and work ethic. The first (graded) class discussions will also test your understanding and analysis of these three novels; *the first 200 points (performance assessments), and three-four weeks, of the school year will be comprised of summer reading analysis/discussion.*

If you have any questions or concerns about this summer reading assignment please e-mail me at my school address: [cburnett@oxfordasd.org](mailto:cburnett@oxfordasd.org). If I don't respond to you within 3 days, e-mail my home address [carynneburnett@gmail.com](mailto:carynneburnett@gmail.com).

As the summer begins to come to a close, I also encourage you to visit the AP English summer reading website: <http://burnettapenglishsummerreading.wikispaces.com>. I will be posting discussion questions, information about the novels, and updated syllabus and coursework to better prepare you for the course. It is *not* mandatory that you check this site before school begins, just recommended.

I am really looking forward to working with you!