

Summer Reading Options for Ms. Baldner's Incoming Junior classes

1984 by George Orwell

OR

The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao by Junot Diaz

*Note: adult themes and language

Honors Students will ALSO read The Help and complete the assignment outlined below.

Questions for 1984 by George Orwell

Before Reading: List the freedoms you enjoy both in your home and in your community. List the freedoms you are denied. What is the reason for the denials? Do you accept the reasons?

After Reading Part One and by August 1st: Who is Emmanuel Goldstein and how is he presented to the people of Oceania? What is the probably significance of using the obviously Jewish name?

After Reading Part Two and by September 1st: Julia tells Winston that even though the Party can torture a person and make him say anything, they cannot make him believe it. How do you feel about this statement? How easy is it to brainwash a person? Do you think governments actually use brainwashing? Discuss.

Please email all responses to baldners@gmail.com

Assignments for *The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, a work of fiction by Junot Diaz

By the end of June:

1. Write a paragraph in which you tell me what you know and would like to know about the Dominican Republic, the location, the people, and the culture.
2. Email your response to me.
3. Respond to the follow-up question I send you.

By the end July:

1. Read the first half of *The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*
2. Write one paragraph in which you answer these questions: Readers reactions to this novel since it emerged in 2007 have been extreme, extremely in favor and extremely against making the effort to get at and understand Oscar's life story. Are there things that as a reader you were turned off by as you read the text? What motivated you to keep going? Choose one aspect of the novel that appealed to you and discuss. Choose one that did not appeal to you and discuss.
3. Email your response to me.

4. Respond to the follow up questions I send you.

By the end of August:

1. Read the second half of *The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*
2. Write one paragraph in which you answer these questions: Is Diaz's tale about Oscar? Or is it about Yunior?
3. Email your response to me.
4. Respond to the follow up questions I send you.

My email address is baldners@gmail.com

Additional Assignment for Honors Juniors

In addition to Junot Diaz's novel please also read *The Help*. Then answer the following questions in the format assigned below: Like Hilly, Skeeter's mother is a prime example of someone deeply flawed yet somewhat sympathetic. She seems to care for Skeeter—and she also seems to have very real feelings for Constantine. Yet the ultimatum she gives to Constantine is untenable; and most of her interaction with Skeeter is critical. Do you think Skeeter's mother is a sympathetic or unsympathetic character? Why?

Assignment

1. Using MLA format (including in-text citations) answer the following questions in a 2-3 page persuasive essay.
2. Email the essay to me no later than midnight August 15, 2011

*Note: I've had some trouble with my content on the web. This *The Help* question may be different than the one posted in June. Either response is acceptable.