

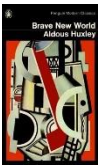
NAVIGATING YOUR BRAVE NEW WORLD

❖ Welcome to 10TH Honors English

In the fall, each of you will be arriving from your 9th grade literature world where you were possibly introduced to concepts like star-crossed lovers, the forever hero, and Plato's perspective on knowledge. You also had darker experiences where the notion of BIG BROTHER was first introduced to you and now will never leave you. 10th honors is another journey into darkness and enlightenment—we will investigate our shadowy humanity but celebrate our better selves, too. With that in mind, your 10th honors teachers have gathered a list of recommendations for you that fit with the beginning 10th honors experience of literature.

On the list below, you'll find compelling fiction where writers investigate the consequences of consumerism, technology, freedom, happiness, power, identity, and rebellion. We offer you these as books to read as an opportunity to become informed citizens of this world, students who read critically, write consciously, speak clearly, so you can tell your truth (Clint Smith https://www.ted.com/talks/clint_smith_the_danger_of_silence?language=en).

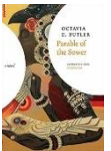
Suggested Reading (choose one of these or all of them or none of them—up to you)



Brave New World by Aldous Huxley is a dystopian novel in which Huxley investigates and challenges the concept of achieving “happiness” in society. This book is a canon every aspiring college student should read. Huxley's concern with the role technology would play in our lives is both relevant and scary. People constantly reference the book as *the brave new world* we now live in, and the book is a great pairing with Orwell's *1984*.



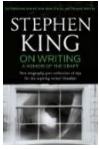
Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* is a dystopian satire which investigates a world in which women are denied their rights to sexual and reproductive freedom. The book was made into the acclaimed Hulu series. It's a fascinating and relevant read, BUT the content is mature, and we do ask that you get parental permission for reading this book.



The Parable of the Sower navigates climate change and its impact on society. Octavia E. Butler's book is relevant and horrifying, and her main character offers a possible way out of what appears to be an apocalyptic end to humanity.

While there will not be an assignment for these books, becoming familiar with dystopian literature will help you in our study of our first unit for the school year.

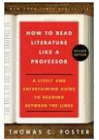
Here's another fun non-fiction option if you have time:



On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft by Stephen King is an honest account of the joys and struggles of writing. King blends personal anecdotes with the expected lists of tips and tricks about how to improve your prose. Even though these tips are helpful, the most fulfilling parts of the novel are the sections in which King discusses the obstacles he faced and how he overcame them. These are important reminders that even the most prolific of writers face the dreaded writer's block and have doubts about the quality of their work. And that is where the memoir finds its value: helping the reader develop not only the skills of a successful writer but also the mindset.

Required Reading

These are books that we will read in the 2021—2022 school year (***note the list is subject to change and individual teachers may handle the study of the books in different ways***). You may want to get a head start on the reading, so you don't feel overwhelmed as the year begins.



We don't require you read the whole book, but the following chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* will be read for better understanding of our 10th grade experience. Thomas C. Foster makes his book a very accessible study of theme, form, and symbolism in literature. The chapters we will address are: "When in Doubt, It's from Shakespeare..." (ch. 6), "...Or the Bible" (ch. 7), "Yes, She's a Christ Figure, Too" (ch. 14), "If She Comes Up, It's Baptism" (ch. 18), "It's all about Sex" and "Except Sex..." (ch. 17 and 18), and "Every Trip is a Quest" (ch. 1). You are obviously encouraged to read the whole book to fully prepare yourself for literature study.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey

Sula by Toni Morrison

Lord of the Flies by William Golding

Hamlet and *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare (depending on your teacher)

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

Choice unit—*In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote, *The Color of Water* by James McBride, *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah, OR *Men We Reaped* by Jesmyn Ward.

Choice Unit—*Girl in Translation* by Jean Kwok, *A Step from Heaven* by An Na, OR *Ellen Foster* by Kaye Gibbons