Welcome to Advanced Placement Literature and Composition. This next year promises to be exciting as we explore together important works of Literature that will challenge your thinking and lead you to deeper and more meaningful reading and literary analysis. Our texts have impacted pop culture and our collective consciousness making them worthy of our attention and critical analysis. Our time together will be spent with close reading, collegiate discussion, written literary analysis and peer review. All of the texts we read have earned a place in the canon of “classic Literature” for their writing style, cultural relevance, and/or innovation. In addition to novels, we will also be studying short works of fiction, poetry, and dramas.

It is essential that you do the reading for this course. As with all classes, the more you put into this class, the more you’ll get out of it. If you have gotten by thus far without deeply reading class texts, please take some time to reconsider the commitment that AP Literature requires. Quite regularly, you will be asked to respond to “blind AP prompts” (timed writing prompts given without prior notice) or participate in close readings. All literary discussions will be assessed upon insightful and original analysis using textual support; the standards you will be measured against are grounded in AP Lit rubrics. I expect you to take a scholarly approach to your studies, knowing that your focus should be on learning and thinking. The rigor of the course will prepare you for the amount of reading and level of intellectual discourse that will be required in a college course. We will spend time practicing AP multiple choice sample questions and essay prompts, often relating them to what we’ve read as a class. Additionally, you will be involved in a number of projects based on your reading. Students who fail to do the reading often find themselves in a difficult position when other students are selecting other group members.

Given some freedom to choose a text for summer reading, a wise and trusted colleague advised me to choose texts that “I love”. Summer reading, in my opinion, should be complex enough to merit extensive analysis yet entertaining enough to be enjoyed poolside. Switching things up a bit from the past two years, I’ve decided that this summer my students will be reading the novel 1984 by George Orwell, a dystopia that has deeply embedded itself into our cultural conscience. This book will not only entertain you, but it also might keep you up at night with some of its more disturbing ideas.
Your project is as follows:

1. **Read the book.** As you read, mark any passages that you believe to be particularly compelling in terms of plot/character development and/or theme. You will be asked to analyze the novel at a much deeper level than comprehension. For some readers, that means taking more time and deliberation with the task in order to read well.

2. **Fill out the Data Sheet** for *1984*. You will be completing a data sheet for each of the books you read this next school year. These data sheets will serve as your review for the AP Lit. test. This sheet is attached and will be posted to the AHS Library website. Completing this data sheet will go a long way towards helping you on your in-class write.

3. Read the ancillary materials. They are also part of the required summer reading for this course. Links to these documents are found on the AHS Library website
   - “The Minority Report” by Philip K. Dick
   - “JFK, Thought Control, and Thought Crimes” by Donald W. Miller, Jr. MD
   - “Control the Language, Control the Masses” by Pieter Vree
   - “Politics and the English Language” by George Orwell

4. **Accountability Assessment:** You will be doing all of your reading for AP Literature and Composition outside of class with the possible exception of “The Tempest”. An accountability assessment does exactly that--it shows whether or not you read the book. Quite often, you are given a passage from a book along with a prompt; your task is to write response about how well the passage fits into the book as a whole. Since you are also asked to read ancillary materials, you should expect a tie-in to those materials, as well. Each class will have a different passage to analyze, and there is a time limit on writing your response.

5. **In-Class Write:** We will discuss how to write an a literary analysis for the first few weeks of school using *1984* as a backdrop for our learning. Your in-class write for *1984* will be a previously used open-ended previously administered open-ended AP prompt, otherwise known as the “#3 essay”. You will not be allowed to use notes during this write. You should consider it to be the final exam for this novel unit.

I hope that this assignment is straightforward enough. If you have questions, please email me at rmasters@asd103.org. I will be checking my email frequently during the summer to field your concerns.

Happy reading!

Mrs. Masters