

MALIBU HIGH SCHOOL – SUMMER READING 2013

HONORS OR AP ENGLISH STUDENTS: You must read ONE of the following books.

CP ENGLISH STUDENTS: You must EITHER read one of these books OR complete the alternative assignment.

ALL STUDENTS will write an essay on the book (or the alternative assignment) on the second day of school. Your teacher might also give you a reading quiz on the book.

*Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep*, P.K. Dick

This novel is the source text for Ridley Scott's dystopian masterpiece *Blade Runner*, and it's to Philip K Dick's considerable credit that neither book nor film seem dated. Indeed, barely a year goes by without the arrival of some technological advance that makes the future dreamed up by Dick in 1968 seem closer. Hover cars may be a while off, but video calls and genetic modifications are firmly in the here and now. The very first pages introduce "mood-organs", dialed up to suppress or stimulate feelings among a needy population. It's difficult not to compare them to the internet: always on, always accessible, never quite real. However, it's doing Dick a disservice to cast the novel as merely the prophetic outpourings of a writer obsessed with ideas. In fact, this is a thrillingly human work. (*The Guardian* book review)

OR

*The Elephant Whisperer: My Life with the Herd in the African Wild*, Lawrence Anthony

Anthony, conservationist and author, owns a wildlife reserve in the KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa. Home to Zululand's full suite of wildlife, Thula Thula had everything—except elephants. When he was offered a herd from another game reserve Anthony accepted wholeheartedly, despite the fact that these elephants were known escape artists. During their first night at the park the traumatized elephants broke out, and after days on the run had been given a death sentence by the local wildlife authorities, only averted when the author pleaded for one more chance. The story of how Anthony saved his elephants by making friends with them, reversing their negative perceptions of humans and earning their trust, is both heartwarming and heartening. This life with elephants is a real winner. (Nancy Bent, Booklist Reviews)

ALTERNATIVE ASSIGNMENT FOR COLLEGE PREPARATORY STUDENTS:

Students in grades 9-12 who are enrolled in College Preparatory English have the option of completing an alternative assignment in place of the reading assignment described above. The alternative assignment is to read the essay "Get Happy" by Walter Mosley and "Santa's Children" by Italo Calvino, and write a short response. Students must also do a personal/creative response to the idea of happiness. **Texts and assignments are posted on the school website.** Students who choose the alternative assignment will write an essay on these short readings on the second day of school.

IN ADDITION, HONORS AND AP STUDENTS MUST ALSO READ:

Incoming **9th grade honors students** must ALSO read *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, Ray Bradbury OR *A Girl Named Zippy*, Haven Kimmel.

Incoming **10th grade honors students** must ALSO read *The Fault in Our Stars*, John Green.

Incoming **11AP students** must ALSO read the following book: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain and a critical article about issues with racist language in the book. See your AP teacher or the Malibu High School web site for complete information about the summer work.

Incoming **12AP students** must ALSO read the following book: *Catch- 22*, Joseph Heller. Additionally students must have a copy of *Candide*, Voltaire the first full week of school. See your AP teacher or the Malibu High School web site for list of assignments and more information.