ENGLISH II PRE-AP SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

1. Pick up a copy of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* from Ms. Melcher (Room 12) or the Main Office.
2. Read the book. You might want to take notes on quotes or ideas that seem particularly important/you’d like to discuss. It is important that **you are prepared for discussion on the first day of class.**
3. Complete the following assignment:

* Identify a major theme of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Remember, the theme represents the message the author wants to make about the subject of the piece (not just the subject itself). While “love” might be a subject of *Romeo and Juliet*, it is not a theme. To determine the theme, you must ask “what is Shakespeare trying to say ABOUT love?” Look at the following table for a few more examples.

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| **SUBJECT** | **THEME** |
| Love (*Romeo and Juliet*) | When love burns too hot, it can become destructive. |
| Power (*Animal Farm*) | Absolute power corrupts absolutely. |
| Home (*The Odyssey*) | The desire for home is stronger than any temptation. |

* Once you have your theme identified, support it with at least three quotes from the novel.
* Here is an example of how this assignment would be performed with a theme from above:
  + Theme of *Romeo and Juliet:* When love burns too hot, it can become destructive.
    - Quote 1: “I would have thee gone—and yet no further than a wanton’s bird, that lets it hop a little from her hand, like a poor prisoner in his twisted gyves, and with a silk thread plucks it back again…yet I should kill thee with much cherishing” (Shakespeare II.ii.177-183).
    - Quote 2: “These violent delights have violent ends and in their triumph die, like fire and powder, which as they kiss, consume” (Shakespeare II.vi.9-11).
    - Quote 3: “O, bid me leap…from off the battlements of yonder tower…And I will do it without fear or doubt, to live an unstained wife to my sweet love” (Shakespeare IV.i.77-88).

\* Note that You do NOT need to write analysis explaining how the quotes support/develop the theme. We will work on that in the fall!

**This assignment should be completed in a word document and ready for digital submission on the first day of class.**

Have a great summer and enjoy the book!

English II Pre-AP teachers