

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

I. REQUIRED READING

Dandelion Wine by Ray Bradbury was first published in 1964. Set in Greentown, Illinois during the summer of 1928, this nostalgic, semi-autobiographical novel reflects many of the themes we will be discussing all semester, including coming of age, consciousness and conscience, changing American values, and the search for identity and meaning.

Slaughter-House Five by Kurt Vonnegut was first published in 1966. A satiric, science fiction fantasy, the novel concerns World War II and its lasting effects on our perceptions of life in the modern world. While on the surface the story may appear to be radically different from Dandelion Wine, there are some interesting parallels in many of the thematic issues. Look for the comparisons and contrasts between the thematic *messages* Of the two books as you read them.

The best way to approach this assignment will be to read a small portion every day for a week or two; don't do a fast superficial reading a day before school starts. Review the books in late August and be prepared to take 100 point objective tests on the novels during the first few days of school. Use this assignment to establish your seriousness as an A.P English student.

II. DIALECTICAL NOTE-TAKING ASSIGNMENT

On your first day back to school, you will be required to turn in **typed** notes for **one** of the assigned novels to show the process of your reading. **Keeping these notes will be useful and easy, if you write them as you read, not after.** The notes will document your thoughts, opinions, and questions about the books for yourself and for your teacher. Make sure these notes are *spaced evenly through the whole book*. Your notes should not resemble someone else's because later you will be asked to submit an electronic copy of your journal to **turnitin.com**. Use MLA heading, font size, margins, etc.

Make your dialectical notes in two columns using the format below. Be informal, but neat and grammatically correct. Make thoughtful, insightful comments that reflect your best efforts to understand the text. This is not a busy work assignment. Use one side of the page only; single space each entry and double space in between. Dialectical journals should be about five typed pages in length.

LEFT SIDE

RIGHT SIDE

Key passages from the book that make you **stop, connect, infer, or ask a question**. Passages should be substantial (three lines or more). *Must include page number(s)*.

Your response to the passage, question, or comment. Record why this passage seems important, what it makes you think, or a question it raises. Consider the character development, symbols, irony, and theme.