

**ENGLISH I HONORS
DR. VAN GUNTEN
SUMMER READING 2018**

Instructions: Choose and carefully read two books from this list. You will have a written-response type test on your chosen books during the first three days of class in August, 2018.

Arthur C. Clarke, *Childhood's End*. How will the world end? In *Childhood's End*, instead of a nuclear holocaust, there is a Golden Age, during which all world crises will be resolved and all social problems will evaporate, followed by a final cataclysm triggered by a source from which we least expect it. The beginning of the end is heralded by the Overlords, mysterious aliens in gigantic silver ships from an unknown planet. Led by the Supervisor, Karellen, these godlike creatures--super intelligent and seemingly all powerful--are heard, but not seen, by humans, at least not for their first decades on Earth. During that period they speak directly to the Earth's population only once--to announce that they are now in charge. Although the Overlords' reforms do benefit humanity, not all people take kindly to having peace and happiness imposed on them by beings they cannot see and whose motives they cannot deduce.

Ally Condie, *Matched*. In the Society, officials decide everything: whom you love, where you work, when you die. Cassia has always trusted their choices. It's hardly any price to pay for a long life, the perfect job, the ideal mate. So when her best friend appears on the Matching screen, Cassia knows with complete certainty that he is the one . . . until she sees another face flash for an instant before the screen fades to black. Now Cassia is faced with impossible choices: between Xander and Ky, between the only life she's known and a path no one else has ever dared follow, between perfection and passion.

Ernest Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea*. One of Hemingway's most enduring works. Told in a language of great simplicity and power, it is the story of an old Cuban fisherman, down on his luck, and his supreme ordeal--a relentless, agonizing battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream. Hemingway modernizes the classic theme of courage in the face of defeat, of personal triumph won from loss. Written in 1952, this hugely successful novella confirmed Hemingway's power and presence in the literary world and played a large part in his winning the 1954 Nobel Prize for literature.