

Interacting with Literature: 9-12

Appropriate Grade Levels: 9-12

Pre-requisites: strong comprehension skills

Minimum # of Students: 6

Maximum # of Students: 15

Teacher: Pamela Zagzebski ("Miss Zag")

Textbook: none- stories will be provided

Required Materials: Binder, pen/pencil, loose leaf, folder, colored pencils, highlighters (≥ 3 colors), post-it notes

Interacting with Literature is eligible for English or elective credits.

The beauty of dystopia is that it lets us vicariously experience future worlds - but we still have the power to change our own.

-Ally Condie

CENTRAL AREAS OF STUDY

- Classic dystopian short stories.
- Meaningful exploration of complex concepts and themes such as manipulation, control, truth vs perception, individuality, equality, hope, sacrifice, "ignorance is bliss."
- An author's choices in words, structure, style, and use of literary devices to communicate a deeper, more nuanced, and powerful purpose.
- Close-reading and other strategies to shift focus from objective comprehension to higher-order learning.
- Critical thinking skills: reasoning, connection, inference/textual evidence, comparison, open-mindedness, & interpretation.
- Skills and expectations needed for engaging and elevated discussions, collaborations, and other learning activities.

INCLUDED AUTHORS

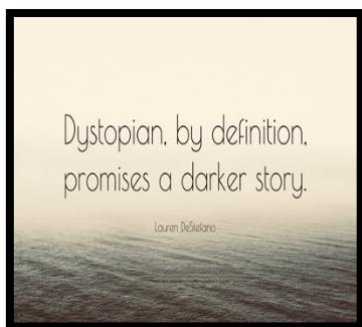
- Joan Aiken
- Ray Bradbury
- James Clavell
- Shirley Jackson
- Henry Slesar
- Kurt Vonnegut



STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- Ability to digest and discuss complex, mature topics.
- Thorough, thoughtful, & punctual preparation for class
- Meaningful, relevant, and productive participation
- Communication with Miss Zag about any obstacles to success.
- Timely responses to Z-mails (Zag's e-mails)

NOTE: The purpose of Z-mails is to ensure students understand the story and/or assignment. The time commitment will be 5-10 minutes with at least 24 hours to respond. Z-mails will be sent on a Wednesday, Thursday, or Monday. Students will know in advance and should discuss with Miss Zag any schedule conflicts and modifications to accommodate family events.



Students should expect 1-3 hours of homework per week.