

Kirtland High School—English 9

#KHSBigSummerRead 2019-2020

Welcome to KHS and English 9! I look forward to working with you this upcoming school year. Much of our work throughout the fall will be informed by your summer reading assignment. The nature of this assignment will require you to read throughout the summer. Please don't wait until the week before school starts to begin reading and completing this work, or you will be behind from the start :-(Your work should always reflect thoughtful, careful reading and insight. **Book A reading throughout the summer; Book B work will be due Friday, Aug. 30.** Have a fun, safe, and productive summer!

Why read during the summer?

- Researchers have proven that reading increases vocabulary and that reading and writing skills are inextricably connected to each other.
- Good writers are good readers. Written and oral communication is most effective when you have a command of language and a broad vocabulary; reading gives you exposure to descriptive and rich vocabulary used in well-written and powerful phrases and sentences.
- The accuracy and effectiveness of your communication is determined by your ability to read critically.
- Reading can be one of the most satisfying and personal life-long habits you will ever develop.
- Reading gives you knowledge and knowledge is power.

For Your Consideration . . .

>How might this book connect to another book you've read or something you've studied?

>Why do you think the author felt compelled to write these stories? What might be his or her goal/purpose/intention?

>How might this book be relevant to today?

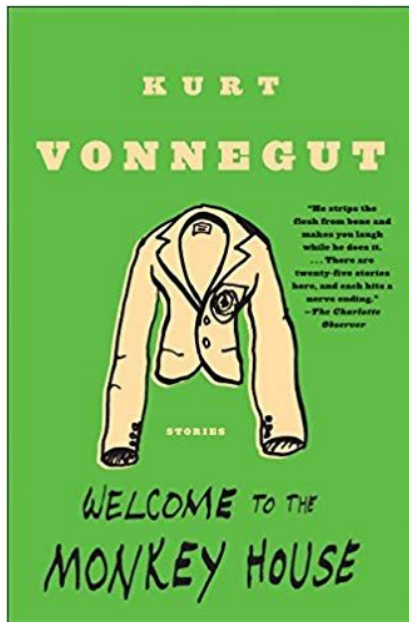
>Should this book be required reading for all Kirtland High School students?

"Why is marking up a book indispensable to reading? First, it keeps you awake. (And I don't mean merely conscious; I mean awake.) In the second place; reading, if it is active, is thinking, and thinking tends to express itself in words, spoken or written. The marked book is usually the thought-through book. Finally, writing helps you remember the thoughts you had, or the thoughts the author expressed" (from "How to Mark a Book" by Mortimer Adler).

**a brief note on academic integrity—I have the internet, too. I look forward to reading your reactions to the summer reading; I don't want to read regurgitations from Sparknotes or the like. Kirtland HS takes academic dishonesty seriously; you may wish to review consequences for violations (kinda ugly). Let this be the last time we need to mention such things . . .*

Book A: *Welcome to the Monkey House* (a collection of short stories) by Kurt Vonnegut

Note: No reader's notebook, study packet, or the like, but, as you read, you will want to make note of particular stories you liked and what you found interesting/compelling, as well as any lingering questions that you might have. If you purchase your own copy, I would encourage you to annotate a bit while you read (mark it up!) as this will help you bring some specificity to our in-class work on the first Friday of school (Aug. 23). We'll cover those details when we meet on Wed, Aug. 21--for this portion of our program, you really just need to read the book. Enjoy!



Welcome to the Monkey House is a collection of Kurt Vonnegut's shorter works. Originally printed in publications as diverse as *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction* and *The Atlantic Monthly*, these superb stories share Vonnegut's audacious sense of humor and extraordinary range of creative vision (from Barnes and Noble).

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"[Kurt Vonnegut] strips the flesh from bone and makes you laugh while he does it. . . . There are twenty-five stories here, and each hits a nerve ending."—*The Charlotte Observer*

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Welcome, a warm welcome, for this Collection of Short Works, viz. pleasures. Whether it's "Who Am I This Time," the little clerk in the hardware store who only comes alive on his local small town stage; or the schizy inheritor of "The Foster Portfolio" (pushing close to a million dollars) who lives frugally (his mother) and has to work weekends (playing an obsessed piano in a joint--his father); or the well remembered (Sunday Times) review of the Random House "Dictionary"; or his storm window, bathroom enclosure salesman who appears in two pieces. Quite a few of these stories, including that of the title, are science fiction and full of someday surprises--the Ethical Birth Control pill which destroys the impulse at the source; or the euphoric gadget which supplies killowatts of happiness. There's the shattering "All the King's Horses," a ghastly game of human chess, and the nicest kind of sentiment in "The Kid Nobody Could Handle" and "Adam," All in all, a versatile, volatile talent--inventive, catchy, charming" (from Kirkus Review).

PS--Vonnegut remains a popular author and is readily available at most libraries. Consider downloading the Overdrive app on your phone/other devices for free with your library card; this will give you free access to ebooks as well as audio books (there is a good audio version of this book, btw). Locally, Barnes and Noble in Mentor and Half Price Books in Mayfield are good options if you're buying your own copy.

Summer Read—Book B (your choice!)
Combining good food, good conversation, and good literature!
(*adapted from Catlin Tucker)

The second book from your summer reading assignment is your choice (maybe check out the mini-posters around 109 for ideas?). Pick something you haven't read before, of course. This second portion of your summer reading will conclude with an informal book club-style chat. You will share your reflections and observations about what you have read with your classmates in small group while relaxing and eating a dish inspired by your book. My hope is that your conversations will expose your group to a book they would not otherwise know about, and you will walk away with new-to-you book titles you are excited to read—

*please have the following prepared (parts 3 & 4 should be typed) and in hand for Friday, August 30.

The project for your second summer reading book consists of four parts:

1. **The Passage: Hook your group members . . .** Choose a striking, exciting, or descriptive passage to read to your group. The passage should be long enough (at least a page in length) to reveal something interesting about a situation in the story (element of the plot) or provide insight into a main character.
2. **Visual Book Promo:** A picture is worth a thousand words . . . Create a small 8x11 (size of a piece of computer paper) "poster" with the title of the book, the author, and at least **one symbol (or token)** incorporated into your collage or drawing (be sure to include your name). This poster should be neat, original (don't just download something you found—create it!), creative, and accurate and will be displayed so you can see all the books your peers are currently reading.
3. **Honest Reaction: Is this book worth reading?** Write a one-page reflection (@ least 300 words) about your book. This reflection should focus on your reaction to the book. Did you enjoy this book? Why or Why not? Did you connect with the subject of the book or with a character in the book? What was your favorite part of the book? Why? Would you recommend this book to a classmate? Why or why not? What type of reader would enjoy this book?
4. **The Perfect Dish: This book makes me crave . . .** Choose a type of food, dish or beverage that you think goes nicely with this particular book and bring it in to share. Is there a scene that involves a particular type of food? Are the characters from a distinct cultural background that specializes in a particular type of food? Is your story sad or emotionally draining and therefore results in cravings for "comfort food"? Is your book a teen-read where the character is addicted to pizza or popcorn flavored jelly beans? Is your action adventure taking place on a climb to Mt. Everest where the characters only have access to Cliff Bars or freeze dried meals? Look at the details in your book and come up with something creative to share with your group of approximately 5 peers. Write a short explanation (about ½ pg) of how this food goes with your book.

The Grade:

- Quality of passage & overall group conversation (thoughtful, engaging)
- Quality of visual ("Eye"-catching, carefully created)
- Quality of reflection/critique (honest, personal, specific)
- Food & explanation of why you chose this particular food or drink (thorough, considered)

Should you have any questions, feel free contact me via the Remind app or email me:
eric.eye@kirtlandschools.org