

Honors British Literature Summer Reading

Over the summer, you will read two novels:

- ***Piranesi*, by Susanna Clarke**
- One of your choice from the list below

You will complete a written assignment on each of the two books you read (details below), and you will participate in a graded discussion on your choice book. We will be starting the school year by discussing *Piranesi* and writing an essay on it.

Choice Books:

- ***The Handmaid's Tale*, Margaret Atwood**
In the near future, the US Government has been overthrown by the Republic of Gilead. Offred, a Handmaid, remembers her life before the coup while navigating the dangers of her new dystopian surroundings.
- ***Till We Have Faces*, C.S. Lewis**
This retelling of the myth of Cupid and Psyche is a complaint against the injustice of the gods by the unreliable narrator Orual, the jealous older sister of Psyche.
- ***All the Light We Cannot See*, Anthony Doerr**
The novel follows two main characters during World War II: the blind French girl Marie-Laure and the poor German boy Werner. Marie-Laure and Werner's stories intersect in the German-occupied French town of Saint-Malo.

Assignments:

***Power Quotes* – Assignment due to OneNote on the first day of school**

From each of the novels, (i.e. *Piranesi* and your selected novel), select 7 quotes that you feel are significant.

Each quote should be typed out in full, and accompanied by the following:

- (a) the page number
- (b) a brief description of the **context** of the quote
- (c) a sentence or two about the **significance** of the quote – i.e. why you selected it.

These quotes might speak to important moments of plot, character, or thematic development, or perhaps resonate with you on a personal level.

***Socratic Discussion* – Second day of class**

You will be put in a discussion group with students who read the same choice book. You should come to the second day of class with a few open-ended discussion questions planned to use in your group discussion, although you do not need to submit these questions in writing. We will discuss specific expectations and grading standards on the first day.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Shaul shaulle@countryday.net