

Surviving Humanity

Pre-AP English II is a survey course in World Literature. This year we will be exploring & examining humanity in the context of how literature exploits the essence of what it means to be human. The course is divided into three units of study: Exploration of Humanity, Exploitation of Humanity, and Examination of Humanity. The first unit will focus on exploring the literary cultures of the world. To prepare for our adventure through literature, we will be exploring both a fictional representation of the future of humanity as well as an actual current or historical survivor's tale. Examining two exploited perspectives in an exploration of surviving will be our first adventure into what it means to live in a world quick to exploit others but slow to examine itself. Complete the activities below in preparation for our first unit of study. You will need a composition book for class to complete the dialectical activities. Anticipate both formal (major grades) and informal assessments (daily grades) over the materials read. **Summer reading work is DUE Monday, 8/24/2015.**



EXPLORATION: What drives a person to take an adventure in exploration? Do the gains outweigh the losses? Is it heroic or villainous to explore another land or culture? When does exploration become exploitation? Consider these questions as you explore the mind of a survivalist in your reading.

READING: Select ONE book from the list provided (on back) to read. Note that all the pieces are non-fiction (true stories)! Some content may require more maturity than others depending on the survivalist, their story, and the civilization encountered. The pieces also vary in length and reading difficulty, so you may want to explore several titles before selecting one. Many of the pieces are available FREE on-line using Project Gutenberg, or in print at the school or public library. Explorers like to be prepared and use their own equipment, so it is strongly recommended you purchase your own copy of the book.

DIALECTICALS: As you read, maintain a color-coded dialectical notebook of quotes and commentary as prescribed below.

- 5 entries that explore the "heroic" qualities of the survivalist (protagonist)
- 5 entries that exploit the extraordinary conflicts of the piece (man vs. man, man vs. nature, man vs. society)
- 5 entries that examine the theme(s) of the piece (survival, imperialism, corruption, power, exploitation, etc...)



EXPLOITATION: What drives a person to survive when another does not? Do cultural differences unite or divide humanity? If it were life or death, could you exploit another human being? Is there hope for future human civilizations, or will depravity reign in the future? Consider these questions as you read.

READING: Check out or purchase a copy of *Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins to read. As you read, maintain a color-coded dialectical notebook of quotes and commentary as prescribed below (See Examination).

DIALECTICALS: As you read, maintain a color-coded dialectical notebook of quotes and commentary as prescribed below.

- 5 entries that explore the "heroic" qualities of Katniss (protagonist)
- 5 entries that exploit the extraordinary conflicts of the piece (man vs. man, man vs. nature, man vs. society)
- 5 entries that examine the theme(s) of the piece (survival, imperialism, corruption, power, exploitation, etc...)



EXAMINATION: What drives writers to write? Are stories necessary for survival? Can a story become more important than the life that lived it or imagined it? Is a true story more powerful than a fictional story, or vice versa? Consider these questions as you compose your own two-three paged double spaced 12 point font survivor story. Choose one of the writing options below. Hopefully your readings will inspire you tell a great story of survival!

WRITING OPTION 1 (NON-FICTION): Write a personal narrative that tells the story of something you have survived. It should be based on a real obstacle you faced and how you overcame it.

WRITING OPTION 2 (FICTION): Write a creative survivor story. Your setting can be any time period (past, present, or future). Let your imagination run free and tell an original tale of surviving an obstacle of your choosing.

A bonus five points will be issued for stories submitted before the start of school via e-mail, google drive, or at open house.



Select ONE title below to read with *Hunger Games*. The pieces vary in length, difficulty, and maturity level; so choose with discretion.

<i>Through the Brazilian Wilderness</i> by Theodore Roosevelt	<i>South: The Endurance Expedition</i> by Ernest Shackleton
<i>Into thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster</i> by Jon Krakauer	<i>Into the Wild</i> by Jon Krakauer
<i>Wind, Sand, and Stars</i> by Antoine de Saint-Exupery	<i>The Journals of Lewis & Clark</i> by Meriwether Lewis & William Clark
<i>Undaunted Courage</i> by Stephen Ambrose	<i>Farther Than Any Man: The Rise and Fall of Captain James Cook</i> by Martin Dugard
<i>Death in the Long Grass</i> by Peter Hathaway Capstick	<i>The Man Eaters of Tsavo</i> by Colonel Henry Patterson
<i>The Four Voyages: Being His Own Log-Book, Letter and Dispatches with Connecting Narratives</i> by Christopher Columbus	<i>Arabian Sands</i> by Wilfred Thesiger
<i>The Exploration of the Colorado River and Its Canyons</i> by John Wesley Powell	<i>High Adventure</i> by Edmund Hillary
<i>Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Journey</i> by Alfred Lansing	<i>Jungle: A Harrowing True Story of Survival</i> by Yossi Ghinsberg
<i>Touching the Void</i> by Joe Simpson	<i>Into the Heart of the Sea</i> by Nathaniel Philbrick
<i>Alive</i> by Piers Paul Read	<i>Skeletons on the Zahara</i> by Dean King
<i>Over the Edge of the World: Magellan's Terrifying Circumnavigation of the Globe</i> by Laurence Bergreen	<i>The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon</i> by David Grann
<i>Adrift: Seventy Six Days Lost At Sea</i> by Steven Callahan	<i>The Marsh Arabs</i> by Wilfred Thesiger
<i>Kon-Tiki</i> by Thor Heyerdahl	<i>The Perfect Storm</i> by Sebastian Junger
<i>In Harm's Way: The Sinking of the USS Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors</i> by Doug Stanton	<i>The Worst Journey in the World</i> by Apsley Cherry-Garrard
<i>High Exposure: An Enduring Passion for Everest and Unforgiving Places</i> by David Breashears	<i>The Travels of Marco Polo</i> by Marco Polo
<i>Annapurna</i> by Maurice Herzog	<i>Between a Rock and a Hard Place</i> by Aron Ralston
<i>K2: The Savage Mountain</i> by Charles S Houston & Robert H. Bates	<i>The Darkest Jungle: The True Story of the Darien Expedition and America's Ill-Fated Race to Connect the Seas</i> by Todd Balf
<i>The Race for Timbuktu: In Search of Africa's City of Gold</i> by Frank Kryza	<i>Cabeza de Vaca's Adventures in the Unknown Interior of America</i> by Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca
<i>True North: Peary, Cook, and the Race to the Pole</i> by Bruce Henderson	<i>Touching My Father's Soul: A Sherpa's Journey to the Top of Everest</i> by Jamling Tenzing Norgay
<i>A Man On the Moon: Voyages of the Apollo Astronauts</i> by Andrew Chaikin	<i>Mawson's Will: The Greatest Polar Survival Story Every Written</i> by Lennard Bickel
<i>The Vinland Sagas: The Norse Discovery of America</i> by Anonymous	<i>My Life as an Explorer</i> by Sven Hedin
<i>Of Whales and Men</i> by R.B. Robertson	<i>The Kid Who Climbed Everest</i> by Bear Grylls
<i>The Innocents Abroad</i> by Mark Twain	<i>Trespassers on the Roof of the World</i> by Peter Hopkirk
<i>On Horseback Through Asia Minor</i> by Frederick Burnaby	<i>The Man Eaters of Kumaon</i> by Jim Corbett
<i>Brazilian Adventure</i> by Peter Fleming	<i>Into Africa: The Epic Adventures of Stanley and Livingstone</i> by Martin Dugard