

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## English III Honors

### Summer Reading

#### Story: "What Men Live By" by Leo Tolstoy

Access the PDF of this story on the HSM website. The assignment is on the second page of this file. You do not have to print the story.

#### Novel Choice:

Students may choose between *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen and *1984* by George Orwell. These two novels are starkly different. Finish reading by the second day of school. I will give a written assignment on that day. Within the first couple weeks of school, students will lead an analytical discussion of these novels.

#### ***Pride and Prejudice***

Published in 1813, *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen is one of the most famous novels in English literature. Set in rural England during the early 1800s, the story follows the intelligent and outspoken Elizabeth Bennet as she navigates family expectations, social class, reputation, and relationships. In this novel, Austen explores how first impressions, pride, prejudice, and misunderstandings shape the way people judge one another. The novel combines humor, memorable dialogue, and complex characters to examine themes that still feel relevant today: love, family pressure, wealth, social status, and personal growth. As you read, pay attention to how characters change over time and how Austen uses irony and wit to critique her society.

#### ***Nineteen Eighty-Four***

Published in 1949, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell is a dystopian novel that imagines a future society ruled by constant surveillance, propaganda, and fear. The story takes place in the superstate of Oceania, where the government controls information, rewrites history, and watches citizens at all times through the figure known as "Big Brother." The novel follows Winston Smith, a man who quietly begins to question the system surrounding him. As Winston struggles with truth, memory, freedom, and individuality, the novel asks readers important questions about power and control: What happens when a government controls language and information? Can people maintain their humanity under oppression? How do fear and propaganda shape society? Although written after World War II, many of Orwell's ideas continue to influence modern discussions about technology, privacy, censorship, and political power. As you read, consider the ways the novel connects to both historical events and contemporary society.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### “What Men Live By”

The **THEME** is the overall message or central idea of a literary work. Some common literary themes are “perseverance,” survival,” “family ties,” “faith,” “death and loss,” and “generosity.”

As you read the “What Men Live By,” consider a prominent theme and how the author develops the theme in the story. Include evidence from the story as support.

Complete this assignment to **turn in the second day of school.**

Simple plot summary of the text rather than theme analysis = half credit

- **Handwrite neatly** using a dark, sharpened pencil or a blue/black pen.
- Write between **five and seven well-composed, grade-appropriate sentences** for each response.
- Use the **third-person point of view**. Do not use second-person or third-person pronouns. Beginning a sentence with a verb is the understood “you.”
- Do not use **contractions**.
- Do not use **abbreviations, slang expressions, or symbols**.
- Prefer **strong adjectives** and **verbs** rather than vague, weak words such as “a lot/lots of,” “aspect,” “stuff,” “thing,” “say/says,” “state/states,” “okay,” “very,” and the “be” verbs.
- Every **pronoun** must have an antecedent.

### “What Men Live By” (Leo Tolstoy)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---