

English 12 Standard Summer Reading
Courtney Blake cblake@gsboe.org

Carefully read the instructions below. Complete each assignment as instructed.

I. Choose one of the following novels to read:

- ***The Metamorphosis*—Franz Kafka**
 - Trace the change experienced by Gregor’s family members.
 - Draw conclusions regarding Kafka’s view of both totalitarianism and capitalism.
 - Support or refute the opinion that *The Metamorphosis* is a “timeless” story.
 - Note the significance of recurring pairs of three in the novella.
 - Understand the features of an existential viewpoint.

OR

- ***The Stranger*—Albert Camus**
 - Define *existentialism* and explain its place within the novel.
 - Consider the idea of being human and whether Meursault fundamentally represents that ideal.
 - What role religion plays in *The Stranger*.
 - Locate and interpret symbols and motifs.
 - Compare Camus's work to that of Franz Kafka and determine what makes them similar and/or different. (only if you choose to read them both)
 - Question the importance and meaning behind the meeting between chaplain and Meursault.

II. Choose one of the bulleted objectives above and discuss in 300-350 words (approximately 1 page, double-spaced).

- Think of the objective as a question. *For example*, the first learning objective under *The Metamorphosis* would ask “What changes do Gregor’s family members experience throughout the novel?”; objective two asks, “What conclusions can be drawn from the novel about Kafka’s views on totalitarianism and capitalism?”

Your assignments are due by the second class meeting. You will submit your brief essay to Turnitin.com **and** provide a printed copy of your typed responses.

There will be a formal assessment of the novel within the first two weeks of the 2020-21 school year.