

# Announcement – Preparation for Next Week

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Dear everyone,

Please use this weekend to prepare carefully for **both classes next week**. We have four important works to discuss, and the readings are relatively long. Our class time will be used mainly for **close reading, interpretation, and comparison**, so you must come to class already familiar with the texts. We will not have enough time to reconstruct the plots together in class.

## For Day 9 – James Joyce and James Baldwin

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Please read **James Joyce's "The Dead"** and **James Baldwin's "Notes of a Native Son"** in full.

Do not read only for plot. On your second reading, mark passages that seem especially important and pay attention to:

- memory, family, death, and self-knowledge;
- moments when Gabriel's or Baldwin's understanding changes;
- the movement between private experience and a larger social or historical world;
- changes in tone, recurring images, and significant details.

For **each text**, choose **one passage that you genuinely find important** and annotate it closely. Come to class prepared to explain: *Why this passage? What changes here? What can we understand from the language that a plot summary cannot tell us?*

Also prepare the **250–300-word comparative response** in the Day 9 reading instructions. This is preparation for discussion, not a formal essay.

## For Day 10 – George Orwell and J. D. Salinger

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You do **not** need to analyse both novels in full, but you do need enough knowledge of their overall stories to understand the selected chapters in context.

For *Animal Farm*, read Chapters **1, 5, 7, and 10** especially carefully. As you read, trace one line of change through the novel:

**ideal → rebellion → power → fear → transformation**

Notice especially how **language, slogans, repetition, and propaganda** help change what the animals believe to be true.

For *The Catcher in the Rye*, read Chapters **1, 5, 16, 22, 25, and 26** carefully and know the basic context of Holden's journey. Rather than simply deciding whether you "like" Holden, listen closely to his voice. Ask yourself: *What does he say? What is he unable to say directly? What does his language reveal about loss, childhood, change, and his desire to protect others?*

Again, select **one passage from each novel**, annotate it, and bring it to class. Please also prepare the **150–200-word comparative response** specified in the Day 10 instructions.

**Most importantly:** please do not rely on summaries or AI-generated explanations instead of reading. A summary can tell you **what happens**; our work next week will ask **how the writing creates meaning**. You need the actual language of the texts in front of you to participate fully.

By the beginning of next week, you should therefore have:

1. Read the required texts/chapters.
2. Marked at least **one important passage in each work**.
3. Written a few notes in your own words beside those passages.
4. Completed the short pre-class response for each session.
5. Thought of **one question you genuinely want to discuss** with the class.

Please bring the texts and your annotations with you. **You do not need perfect answers before class. You do need to have read carefully enough to have questions, evidence, and ideas.**

Have a good weekend, and please give yourself enough time for the reading rather than trying to do all four texts the night before.