

**ENGLISH I HONORS
SUMMER READING REQUIREMENTS
SUMMER 2009**

Students who will be enrolling in **ENGLISH I HONORS** as ninth grades at **Matanzas High School** in August 2009 are **REQUIRED** to complete summer reading and complete written activities that demonstrate their understanding and interpretation of the selected works.

The English Department has designated the following book:

Alas! Babylon, by Pat Frank

All summer reading must be handed in by FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2009 to their ENGLISH I HONORS Teacher.

For the book, choose **TWO** of the essays/questions, and respond. In your response, include: facts, ideas, reasons, supporting details, quotes and/or examples to support your answers. Each response must contain an introductory statement, a substantial body and a well thought-out conclusion. Responses will be assessed on how well you have demonstrated your: understanding, knowledge and interpretation of the book, and how well your essays demonstrate: focus, organization and support, using the conventions of standard American English, such as grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, tense, verb-subject agreement, etc... **Most responses will require approximately one double-spaced type page (about five paragraphs) to respond fully.**

Alas, Babylon! (*choose two*)

1. Why do you think Frank selected a passage from The Revelation of John as the title of the book? To what extent do you think he intended the references about Babylon to apply to the United States of the 1950's? To what extent might they apply to the United States today?
2. Write a comparison study of people in positions of power or public authority who should not be, before and after The Day? Include specific examples and references to Randy, Peewee, Bubba Offenhaus, Edgar Quisenberry, and Porky Logan.
3. Helen points out that her children, and all children in the 1950's, "have lived under the shadow of war- atomic war. For them the abnormal has become normal." If so, what are the consequences for them? Do we live under a shadow or shadows in the society of the twenty-first century? Explain.
4. What is the sequence of the escalating breakdown of "normal" order, institutions, and public services? How do people react to the sudden absence of services and procedures that they –we- take for granted? Would reactions today be similar or different? Explain. What do you think is the most serious loss?
5. What factors of character and circumstances justify Randy's responsibility for and authority over Fort Repose? Explain the following quote, "When you had the responsibility you also had the right to command." How is this quote applicable in the novel and in the global community of the twenty-first century? Be specific.
6. To what extent does "survival of the fittest" apply in the novel? What do Randy and the others understand this phrase to mean? What do you understand this phrase to mean? Decide whether this concept is good or bad and defend one position.

Reminder:

Do you know what is **PLAGIARISM** ?
All work submitted **MUST** be your own!

Questions?

E-mail Ms. Kellie Doucette at: doucettek@flaglerschools.com
Be sure to include your full name, grade and e-mail address to receive a response.