

**9<sup>th</sup> Honors 2019-2020 Summer Reading Assignment:**

***Feed* by M. T. Anderson; ISBN: 978-0-7636-6262-2**

- 1. Obtain a copy of *Feed*. You need to read, annotate, and become quite familiar with this novel.**

As you complete your reading of *Feed*, you will complete **five (5) journals** and define **four (4) concepts** to be submitted to your English 9th Honors teacher on the first day of class. Try as much as possible to make connections to today's world and/or your life. The highest grades will go to those who demonstrate the ability to think with depth, breadth, and creativity on a consistent basis. One typed, double-spaced page (250-300 words) will do for each journal. At the end of each journal, you can submit a few sentences that define the required concept and give an opinion on how that concept might relate to the journal entry. Please title your journals and include the number of the journal at the top of each journal entry you write.

- 2. JOURNALS: Most questions for the journals can be found in the “Discussion Questions” section following the end of the novel.**

- Journal #1: Part 1, “moon”

Respond to the following questions taken from the “Discussion Questions” section in the novel:

- 1.** In *Feed*, product information flows directly, and unceasingly, to the brain. How deeply have commercial messages penetrated your own day-to-day life? Does the presence of that advertising bother you? Are there things about it that you like and that you would miss? Use specific examples of advertising to answer these questions.

Define and explain (in a few sentences) relevance of the following concept: **ethical conduct**.

- Journal #2: Part 2, “eden”

Respond to the following questions taken from the “Discussion Questions” section in the novel

- 1.** When Titus and his friends are disconnected from the feed for several days, how do they entertain themselves? What does Violet mean when she wonders: “Maybe these are our salad days” (page 60)? If your life is routinely spent online,

what happens when you go offline for an extended period? How might your life be different without access to online platforms?

Define and explain (in a few sentences) relevance of the following concept: **idiomatic expression**.

- Journal #3: Part 3, “utopia”

Select **ONE** of the following from the “Discussion Questions” section in the novel and respond.

1. Violet gets very angry and bitter with her new-found friends. Do you agree with all her accusations about their lifestyle, or do you think she goes too far (use specific examples to explain your position)? For example, Violet complains to Titus, “Because of the feed, we’re raising a nation of idiots. Ignorant, self-centered idiots” (page 113). Do you agree with Violet’s statement? Why or why not?

2. “We are new people,” the feed reports (page 149). “It is now the age of the oneiric culture, the culture of dreams.” What does it mean to live in a culture of dreams? Would you want to? Why or why not (use examples to support your decision).

Define and explain (in a few sentences) relevance of the following concept: **dystopian society**.

- Journal #4: Part 4, “slumberland”

Select **ONE** of the following and respond.

1. When Violet is gravely ill, Titus mostly ignores her messages and rejects her pleas. What does Violet need from Titus? Why doesn’t he give it to her? Why does she believe he’s different from his friends? Is he? Would you have given Violet what she needed if you were in Titus’ shoes? Why or why not?

2. The word *feed* can be a noun or a verb. Why is it a fitting title when used either way? Does this homonym add to the satirical nature of the novel? Why or why not? In your opinion, is there a better fitting title?

- Journal #5: After finishing the novel

Respond to the following:

1. *Feed* is set in a future time when most Americans get their news, entertainment, and shopping tips from electronic transmitters implanted into their brains. Consider the ethical concerns of this type of technology? In what ways are current technologies similar to the feed? How are they different? Research and discuss at least two current technologies and explain how they are similar to the feed (regarding ethical concerns). For example, you could research human microchipping, discuss the process and proposed benefits and ethical concerns, and then relate it back to the ethical concerns or benefits of *feed*.