

Honors English 4 – 2024 Summer Assignment
Mr. Scheip (tscheip@cmhs-sarasota.org)

Your assignment this summer is to read four short texts (fiction and nonfiction) that will be important to your work in the fall semester. Like any good reader, you should:

- Keep a dictionary handy for unfamiliar terms
- Annotate as you read
- In a notebook or separate document, take notes while you read or write a summary

You should anticipate assessments on the reading in the first week of school, so you should read each of the pieces before you show up on day one. Each piece is short enough to read in one sitting. While the pieces are short, I would not recommend reading them all the night before.

Part One:

Read Plato’s “**Allegory of the Cave**” and Mark Edmundson’s article “**On the Uses of a Liberal Education.**” Consider what these pieces have to say about knowledge and learning – how we acquire them, why we acquire them, and what we should do with them. What prevents people from becoming intelligent or genius? Despite these articles being ‘old’ (2,400 and 27 years old, respectively), in what ways do their messages ring even more true today? Are there outdated elements (consider how the “tube” and “box” have evolved)?

Part Two:

Read Nicholas Carr’s article “**Is Google Making Us Stupid?**” and Mark Edmundson’s article “**Milton’s Apple and Ours.**” Consider what these pieces have to say about technology and its effects on our intellect. How should we use or understand technology? Is there a moral component to our pursuit of knowledge? Carr wrote his article in 2008 – how do the ubiquity of the smart phone and the rise of generative AI provide a different perspective on his piece? You may want to familiarize yourself with the basic plot of *2001: Space Odyssey* to understand Carr’s references to HAL. Before reading Edmundson’s piece, you may want to first familiarize yourself with John Milton’s *Paradise Lost* – Course Hero has a good summary on YouTube.