

PSYCHOLOGY SUMMER ASSIGNMENT:

“WHO WATCHES THE *WATCHMEN*?”



For your summer assignment you will be reading Alan Moore and Dave Gibbon's graphic novel *Watchmen*, a book that explores many psychological and philosophical themes. *TIME* Magazine named *Watchmen* to its list of the 100 Best English-Language Novels of the 20th Century, calling it "a work of ruthless psychological realism." *Watchmen* was also included on Entertainment Weekly's list of the best 50 novels of the last twenty-five years. The graphic novel (English version, please) is easily found at the large bookstores in Seoul (Bandi & Lunis, Kyobo, What the Book).

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Each chapter of the graphic novel will be used to introduce you to various psychological terms, concepts and ideas. You will read each chapter with attention to detail in each illustrated panel. As the plot is more or less secondary, it is the motivations and behavior of the characters in the story that concern us, and not just the primary characters, but the secondary and incidental characters as well. Pay attention to subtext and allegory. You will use skills and knowledge from your English and history classes to understand context and comprehend the layers of the story ("reading between the lines...") and its thematic motifs.

HOW WILL YOU DO IT:

You will log on to <http://mrsixmental.blogspot.com> to answer questions and respond to various prompts after reading the assigned chapters.

***First, you will log onto the blog and post a greeting comment. Do not use nicknames; only your actual name. You cannot get credit if I can't identify you. **Failure to log on and identify yourself by Friday, June 11, will result in a 20-point deduction.**

***The first **prompt** and **reading assignment** will be posted on Sunday, **June 6th** and all responses are due by the Friday, **June 25th**. There is no opportunity for make-ups of missed blog responses and any responses not received by 11:59 p.m. Friday will be counted as incomplete. There are no excuses for failure to respond, technological or otherwise! Responses will not be made public until after the deadline.

***The second and third reading prompts will be posted by the due dates for the previous assignments. The due dates for the second and third reading assignments will be tentatively scheduled for **July 16** and **August 6**.

HOW IT'S SCORED:

***Each assignment will be **30 points**, for a total **90 possible points** by summer's end. The remaining **10 points** will be determined once school begins, possibly involving class discussion of the reading and an analysis paper.

***Your summer assignment will go in as your first **test grade** (tests are weighted heavily in the gradebook).

***Responses will be carefully monitored for plagiarism, duplicate responses and other suspect practices. Responses that are not clear, insightful and well thought out will not be given credit for completion. Don't lose credit for too-brief responses. Think in paragraphs. Responses will also be graded on grammar, spelling, etc.

***Failure to maintain an adequate summer assignment grade of **70 points or higher** by summer's end will result in **immediate removal** from the course on the first day of school. Failure to complete any part of the summer assignment will also result in **immediate removal**. Plan ahead!

HOW YOU WILL CONTACT ME:

***You will contact me over the summer through the following e-mail: d_six@yahoo.com

***As gradebook will be not be updated over the summer, you will confirm receipt of your responses prior to due date and your current point total by contacting me through the above e-mail.

***It is recommended that you stay on top of your point total so there are no surprises when you return in August.

***School e-mail is an optional secondary contact but will be checked infrequently over the summer.

RESOURCES:

***The following websites will be helpful resources in understanding the layers of meaning found on every page of *Watchmen*.

***The Annotated Watchmen (www.captwacky.com/rj/watchmen)

***Symbol Watcher: "Watchmen" Characters are a Psychological See Saw

(<http://symbolwatcher.com/2009/03/watchmen-movie-characters-exemplify-psychological-extremes/>)

***OnFiction: The Watchmen: Comics' Use of Dissonance

(www.onfiction.ca/2009/03/watchmen-comics-use-of-dissonance.html)

***"Watchmen": The Curious Case of a Graphic Novel

(<http://moreintelligentlife.com/story/watchmen-graphic-novel>)

