Gentlemen,

Welcome to Form VI English! Whether you are taking The Literature of Exiles and Borders with Ms. LaSala-Goettler or Literature of Order, Chaos, and Agency with Ms. Vonnegut, we have one primary request of you in the twelve weeks of summer break:

Please purchase and closely read a physical copy of Emily St. John Mandel’s Station Eleven. The book is, in many ways, the perfect summer read - it’s a page-turning post-apocalyptic novel that takes on questions of celebrity, memory, and the role of literature at the end of the world. In short, we think you’ll have fun with it.

You must mark up your book using whatever system of close reading (underlining and annotating, etc …) you have devised over the course of your English career. However, if you are looking for recommendations, here’s what we recommend:

Basically think of your underlining and annotating as your ongoing conversation with …
   a) … the characters about the plot of the novel, and
   b) … the author about the craft.
Your guiding question should be “What strikes you?” because if a passage or turn of phrase catches your attention, it is most likely worth further consideration.

This process basically goes as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>OBSERVATION</strong></th>
<th><strong>INFERENCE</strong></th>
<th><strong>ANALYSIS</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What You See/Notice</strong></td>
<td><strong>Observation + Meaning</strong></td>
<td><strong>What it all adds up to.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>author’s diction, basic facts/trait, story elements, presence of literary devices, use of space on the page</td>
<td>patterns (of words, images, lit. devices, ideas etc …), the effects of literary devices characterization/ character development connotations/connections (to your personal experiences, other works of literature, the world, etc …)</td>
<td>What those patterns lead/add up to. What messages the author might be trying to get across. What questions does the story provoke.</td>
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And, of course, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to us by emailing Ms. V. at lvonnegut@browning.edu. She’ll take questions from her class and forward on questions to Ms. LaSala-Goettler until Ms. L-G has a Browning email account.

Have wonderful summers, and we look forward to seeing you in the fall!

- Ms. LaSala-Goettler & Ms. Vonnegut