

SUMMER READING CHECKLIST

ENGLISH 12 CP

○ READ THE GREAT DIVORCE BY C.S. LEWIS

The Great Divorce arose out of Lewis' interest in the nature of spiritual choices. The idea for allowing damned spirits a "holiday" in Heaven was suggested by his reading of the seventeenth century Anglican Jeremy Taylor, who introduced him to the ancient Catholic notion of *Refrigerium* – that the damned are given occasional repose from the torments of Hell by being granted "days off" in other places. The title of the book was a play on William Blake's *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* – Lewis implying that no such marriage is possible. On the title page there is a telling quote from George MacDonald:

No, there is no escape. There is no heaven with a little of hell in it – no plan to retain this or that of the devil in our hearts or our pockets. Out Satan must go, every hair and feather.

○ COMPLETE ESSAY ON THE GREAT DIVORCE

After reading *The Great Divorce*, choose ONE of the following prompts for your essay.

1. What do you think Lewis is saying about the relationship between good and evil?
 2. In a letter to his brother in 1940, Lewis said: "I begin to suspect that the world is divided not only into the happy and unhappy, but into those who like happiness and those who, odd as it seems, really don't." Do you think this is a good insight into the spiritual choice we make for or against God? Is it really that simple?
 3. "Better to reign in Hell than serve in Heaven." According to Lewis, why do people reject God?
 4. Lewis has one of his characters describe God as the Eternal Fact. Is that an accurate description?
- ✓ Sources: Use at least 2 quotes from *The Great Divorce*. No other sources are required.
 - ✓ Format: MLA, typed
 - ✓ Length: 4-5 paragraphs (Intro, 2-3 body paragraphs, Conclusion)
 - ✓ Write in 3rd person. Avoid informal words and phrases.
 - ✓ Turn in hard copy to Mrs. Lee on the first day of school.
 - ✓ Grade Value: Quiz Grade

cslewis.org/resources/studyguides

○ READ 1984 BY GEORGE ORWELL

- ✓ Reading Quiz on first day of school

○ CHECK SCHOOL EMAIL & LEECLASSROOM FOR UPDATES/RESOURCES