The Catholic High School of Baltimore
Summer Reading List

Teacher’s Name: Mrs. Karen Mitchell
School Year: 2015-2016 Grade Level: 10
Course No.: 122 Course Name: American Literature
Academic Level (Honors/AP/CP1/CP2/CPA): College Prep

Novel:

Ella Minnow Pea
Mark Dunn

Assignment:

The assignment is separated into three parts: Academic Vocabulary, New Vocabulary, and Short Answer Questions.

Academic Vocabulary: Define each word and write one example from the book for each. Include the chapter and page number.

- Pangrams
- Anagrams
- Portmanteau words
- Euphemisms
- Epistolary novel
- Pun
- Situational irony
- Verbal irony
- Diction
- Syntax
- Fable
- Paradox
- Metaphor

New Vocabulary: Define fifteen new words as used in the context of the story. Write one sentence in which the word occurs in the text. Include the chapter and page number.
Short Answer Questions: In 1-2 complete sentences answer the following questions.

1. What event precipitates the novel’s action? What is the letter on the fallen tile?
2. Why does the Council hold an emergency meeting and how does it explain the ‘detachment’ of the tile? Does Ella agree with this explanation?
3. What is Nevon Nollop’s legacy to the people of Nollop?
4. What is the Council’s first edict?
5. How does Ella think the edict will change on the island? How does Tassie’s prediction differ from hers?
6. What are the edict’s incidental consequences? How does it and its successors affect the island’s libraries, schools, press, and other activities? What does this suggest about the importance of language?
7. Why can’t dissenting Nollopians simply launch a recall motion against the Council?
8. Do the Council’s edicts contain any loopholes or exemptions? What are they and how are they later put to use by Ella and her allies?
9. What does Tassie mean when she writes, “In the sanctuary of my thoughts, I am a fearless renegade”?
10. How does the Council go about enforcing its rulings? In particular, how does it find out which of its subjects are using forbidden letters?
11. What does Ella mean when she says that the law “builds rock walls between hearts?”
12. What headline appears on the final edition of the Nollop Tribune? How do other dissenting Nollopians use language to defy the Council?
13. Who is Nathan Warren and how has he learned of Nollop’s predicament? What vital and disturbing piece of news does he bring with him from the States? What does he plan to do with this information?
14. What are the “ten salient” of the Council’s proclamation to the people of Nollop? How does it justify its actions? What does the story about Nollop and his stenographer suggest about the founder’s character?
15. Why does Ellan maintain that the loss of the letter ‘D’ robs islanders “of great chunks of our very history”?
16. Following ‘D’s’ departure, what alternate names does the Council give the days of the week? At what point do these names become inoperative, and what takes their place?
17. What were Nollop’s last words, and what is their relevance to the story?
18. What further edict does the Council issue against exiles? Is this decree meant simply as punishment or does it serve an ulterior purpose?
19. In a letter to Nate, Tassie writes, “We are our own cavalry. The only cavalry there is. Whose horses seem in permanent hobble status”?
20. What happens to life on Nollop as the Council’s bans become increasingly restrictive? What does the Council do to restore order?
21. What is Enterprise 32? Who is Tom and what is his role in Enterprise 32?
22. How does Professor Mannheim die and who relates the “greenphos” news to Ella?
23. Describe the demise of Georgeanne Towgate. Do you think the manner of her death reflects her personality or is it a response to the rigors of life in an alphabetically-deprived society?
24. Who is Ella’s last remaining ally in the Enterprise? What keeps her from abandoning the project or following her loved ones into exile?
25. What final revelation emerges about the once revered Nollop?