

This will help you read *Feed* by M.T. Anderson...

As a Catholic School, it's important to our mission that we ask our students to read novels that challenge their world-view and help them to recognize the importance of life and faith. *Feed* is dystopian, first-person novel that asks the reader hard questions, including how much of their intellectual freedom they are willing to give up, and what, exactly, is the worth of a human life and how should that worth be judged?

The story is about a teen named Titus. In the essence of classic novels like *Fahrenheit 451*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *The Catcher in the Rye*, Titus tells his story in his own words which means that he will use slang and language of his generation and society. While you will notice this language right away, as you read you will understand the messages and themes that involve the characters are much deeper. In their time, technology rules their lives so much so that their technology isn't a smart phone or a laptop but embedded ("feed") into their heads shortly after birth. As we see the world changing around us, the addiction most have to technology is important to understanding our faith and our humanity.

Technically, this book is considered young adult fiction, so while it's a great story with some very pertinent messages, the reading level of this book may be somewhat less sophisticated than what is typical in our college-prep English 10; however, you will also receive in class some supplementary articles to read along with the novel, and the articles will provide you with some good practice in higher-level reading and class discussion. As you read the novel ask yourself what you've given up in exchange for technology and reflect on what else you might be willing to part with as advances come.