Welcome to Technology in Literature! To get us all ready to explore this fascinating and complex topic in the fall, I’ve designed the following summer reading assignment. It is important to do this assignment thoughtfully and thoroughly, because you’ll be using it in class discussion and to complete a written assignment once the semester starts.

1. Spend a few days observing the technology you use, or see being used, in your daily life. Then, make a list with at least 5 examples of these technologies. Once your list is done, look up a definition of technology, and type it up (remember to include the source where you found it!).

2. Buy Tell the Machine Goodnight by Katie Williams (ISBN 978-0525533122; make sure you purchase the hardcover). Please read the book actively. When you’re finished, pick a character - your favorite? your least favorite? one that you couldn’t figure out? - and select three especially interesting quotes/passages from the novel featuring that character (no longer than a paragraph each).

**What is active reading?** Active reading is reading in an engaged way for better comprehension. Part of this means taking notes - on repeated words or concepts, character appearances and relationships, confusing or unclear moments, key plot points, or maybe especially striking phrases. The specific marks you make in the book are up to you, but for this assignment, I do have three specific requirements:

1. Wait to make any marks at all until you’ve read the first 10-15 pages of the book. When you’re just discovering the world of a novel, I think it’s more fun to just read, without the pressure of active reading. Once you’ve started noticing some patterns or
themes that you want to make notes on, go back to those first pages and make whatever notes you need to make.

2. Use a pen or pencil, not a highlighter. Whenever I’ve used a highlighter, especially when reading a book for the first time, I end up with whole pages covered in yellow, but I can’t remember why I thought those passages were worth highlighting. If active reading is like drawing a road map of your reading experience, you want that map to be as specific and clear as possible - mark the specific passages that jump out at you, and write notes that will help you remember why they did.

3. At the end of every chapter, write down a 3-4 bullet point chapter summary in your book. Don’t worry about writing down every detail, just the major events that move the story forward or develop the characters.

3. Type up your passages (include page numbers!), and after each one, include a short (4-5 sentences) explanation of its significance and/or why you chose it. Note: at the start of the year (but not in the first class), you will complete a graded written assignment on this book which will draw on these passages.

When you’re done with all three parts, compile your technology list, your definition, and your three character passages + explanations in a single Word document (12-point Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins, with a heading in MLA format). Please print out this document and make sure you bring it, your copy of Tell the Machine Goodnight, and a writing utensil to our first class.

Your active reading and printed assignment will each be worth one homework check. I’ve set up an email address that I’ll be checking regularly over the summer, so feel free to email me with any questions you have! See you in September!