

## High School Summer Reading

If you are taking a general English course in the upcoming year, for summer reading you should select any book of **appropriate grade level**. If it is in the teen or adult section of the library or bookstore, it is probably fine. The book you choose does not have to be a “classic.” Choose something you will enjoy reading--fiction or nonfiction.

If you are taking an advanced or honors English course of any kind, you should select two grade level appropriate books to read. If it is in the teen or adult section of the library or bookstore, it is probably fine. The book you choose does not have to be a “classic.” Choose something you will enjoy reading--fiction or nonfiction.

After reading the books, complete the following:

1. Locate and quote the three most important passages in the book. Then explain in a fully developed paragraph why each quote is significant. Think in terms of literary elements such as conflict, theme, character development, symbolism, foreshadowing, etc. You might also think about the fiction signposts you learned about in middle school (contrasts and contradictions, again and again, memory moments, aha moments, tough questions, words from the wiser). Passages that contain those things are often important passages.

2. Explain what you think is a principal theme of the book (even if you chose a nonfiction book, there is a theme or purpose/point). Remember that theme is a message or point the author tries to communicate through the story. Be sure to back up what you say with specific examples and details from the book. This should not be just a plot summary.

ALSO, be very careful about getting ideas from online sources. If you do, be sure to cite your sources. Plagiarized work will receive a zero.

Honors students should complete the above assignments for both books.

Students enrolling prior to July 15 should complete all summer reading requirements. Honors students enrolling after July 15, should read at least one book before school starts. General students enrolling after July 15 should begin reading a book but may negotiate additional time with individual teachers.