

# 2023 MJHS Summer Reading - English I Honors

- Required Text #1: *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster
  - “Introduction: How’d He Do That?” and “Every Trip is A Quest (Except When It’s Not)”
  - PDF’s are available on an as needed basis. Please email Ms. Dzikus (nichole.dzikus@maryville-schools) if a PDF copy is requested. If you request this prior to school ending, the PDF can be printed. After the last day of school, the PDF will be emailed to you. Please reach out with questions and concerns. Please expect a delay in the response if you are reaching out during the summer.
  - The PDF link will be located on the MJHS homepage under the summer reading selection.
    - MJHS - Parents and Students - Summer Reading Requirements
    - You can also reach a copy of the PDF at this link:
      - <https://bit.ly/3JPKP6w>
- Required Text #2: *Daughter of the Deep* by Rick Riordan
  - Please purchase or borrow (see Ms. Dzikus in room 216 if you are unable to obtain a copy and cannot borrow one).

Welcome to English I Honors! As an English I Honors student, you are required to complete the selections above as summer reading. Please review the information below and be prepared to take a formal assessment over both texts during the first week of school.

Read below for information on the reading selections as well as the goals of summer reading.

“Life has no meaning. Each of us has meaning and we bring it to life. It is a waste to be asking the questions when you are the answer. – Joseph Campbell

## The Hero’s Journey

Joseph Campbell (1904-1987) wrote the book, *The Hero with A Thousand Faces*. In this book he presents the “monomyth” or “Hero’s Journey”, which argues that many stories are fundamentally the same. The idea of the Hero’s Journey is one that extends beyond social, political, and religious foundations but focuses more on human identity. The freshman year of high school is a year of transitions and growth (understanding who we are). As we focus on the fictional heroes that we see in stories told around the world, we start to realize that we are the heroes of our own lives and what that means. The first unit of curriculum for English I Honors at MJHS focuses on the Hero’s Journey. The summer reading assignment will introduce this concept through excerpts from a complex reading (*How to Read Literature Like a Professor*) and then give you the opportunity to read an example of this concept in *Daughter of the Deep*. Rick Riordan is the well-known author of *The Lightning Thief* series. He has many books that focus on Greek Mythology, which is also a major unit of 9th grade. If you have not read his *The Lightning Thief* and *The Heroes of Olympus* series, we would encourage you to do so as they include many concepts and ideas that we study. However, *Daughter of the Deep* breaks from his mythological focus to engage in the story of the classic *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne.

### **Interesting elements of *Daughter of the Deep*:**

1. The protagonist is a freshman. We love that the protagonist is your age!
2. Many of you have read Rick Riordan's novels. His writing is relatable and the basic plot is easy to understand. Since you won't be confused by the plot, you can focus on the skills and concepts from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*.
3. The protagonist is female. Most of our readings in the 9th grade curriculum have a male protagonist. It is a great opportunity to see the Hero's Journey through female eyes and compare that to our male heroes.
4. This book is a mix of science fiction and fantasy with obvious connections to other popular fiction of the day.
5. The connection to *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* allows readers to experience this classical piece of literature and maybe read that as well!

### **How do I obtain a copy of my book?**

- You will need to obtain your own copy of the book you choose to read. While you can choose to purchase the book (consider Amazon, McKay's, etc...), you may want to check the local library as well as our school library to see if you can borrow a copy of the book (numbers are limited).
- If you are unable to purchase or need help obtaining a copy, please contact the following people:
  - Kim Nizinski - [kim.nizinski@maryville-schools.org](mailto:kim.nizinski@maryville-schools.org) at MJHS during the summer.
  - Nichole Dzikus - [nichole.dzikus@maryville-schools.org](mailto:nichole.dzikus@maryville-schools.org) Only until May 20th
  - Regina Cox - [regina.cox@maryville-schools.org](mailto:regina.cox@maryville-schools.org) at MJHS during the summer.

### **How will I be assessed on summer reading?**

- An objective test and writing test will be given during the first week of school. All students enrolled in English I honors on the first day of school will be expected to take this objective test.
  - **Questions about Enrollment?**
    - If you switch out of honors, but you were enrolled in honors through the summer and for the first day of school, you will still be expected to take the test, which will be recorded in your grades.
    - If you enroll in English I Honors over the summer, you will be given the summer reading information when you register. If you do not register for the course until school begins, you will have two weeks to complete the reading and take the test. A date for make-up tests will be announced during the first week of school. All make-up tests will be taken on the same day.
  - **Questions about the Test?**
    - The objective test will have a primary focus on understanding of plot, characters, and setting of *Daughter of the Deep* (including the Foreword and Introduction). It will also focus on the concepts from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. A secondary focus on theme, point of view and basic analysis will be included as well.
    - The writing test will have a primary focus on the connections between the two readings and the Hero's Journey.

## How can I best prepare for the assessment?

- We suggest (but do not require) that you take notes while you read. Keep a list of key information: characters, settings, patterns, important events, themes.
- Please feel free to research your book on the Internet. While reading summaries of the book can help before you read or reviews of the book after you read, they cannot take the place of reading the book.
- If you know of a peer who is also enrolled in English I Honors, creating a study group is also another way to prepare.
- See these graphic organizers for [Character](#). There are many examples, but most have similar information. If you are having trouble remembering the main characters well, one of these might help.

## What else can I read over the summer?

- Read *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*!
- Riordan's *The Lightning Thief* and *The Heroes of Olympus* (both are a series).
- Need some other reading options? Check out these [MJHS Freshmen Summer Reading Suggestions](#).

## Further Questions?

- Feel free to reach out to the following English teachers regarding summer reading questions. Please know that all teachers are on break during the summer and may not be available until the start of school.
  - Nichole Dzikus - [nichole.dzikus@maryville-schools.org](mailto:nichole.dzikus@maryville-schools.org)
  - Rebecca Watson - [rebecca.watson@maryville-schools.org](mailto:rebecca.watson@maryville-schools.org)
  - Whitney Schmidt - [whitney.schmidt@maryville-schools.org](mailto:whitney.schmidt@maryville-schools.org)

Good luck and have fun! We hope you enjoy your reading but also have a summer that allows you to recharge and enjoy life! We can't wait to see you all next year!

Sincerely,  
English I Teachers