



## Summer Reading Assignments 2024-2025

This year's summer reading will again be an interdisciplinary experience for our students where they will be reading and discussing the same book for both their Bible and English classes. The students will have an assignment to complete for their Bible class that will be due the first week of school, and they will complete activities in their English classes related to the same book when they return to school in August. Below you will find summer reading books listed by grade as well as the corresponding summer Bible assignment.

*Please note that Accelerated English Courses (Honors/DE/AP) require an additional summer reading assignment which is also listed below by grade.*

### 9th Grade

**Bible/English Book:** *The Pilgrim's Progress: A Readable Modern-Day Version of John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress* (to aid in classroom discussions, we recommend purchasing [this edition](#))

#### **Bible Assignment:**

1. **Paper** (*due on the first day of class*): Students will choose *four* different encounters throughout the whole book (from different chapters) that Christian has along his journey to the Celestial City. Using 50 - 75 words for each encounter, students will write a 200-300 word paper (12 point font, double spaced) which needs to include the following:
  - a. **Description of** each encounter in your own words
  - b. **Explanation of** why it is significant for Christian
  - c. **Explanation of** why this event has significance to you personally
2. **Quiz:** Be prepared to take a short quiz on the book during the first week of school.

## Additional Assignment for Honors English 9

*The Alchemist*. After you have read the book, complete all parts of the assignment listed below:

1. What is the overall message (theme) of the text? Incorporate two quotes (with page numbers) in your response as evidence of the theme. Discuss the significance of your two quotes in separate paragraphs as they relate to character, plot, or theme development. Remember to use the word “character,” “plot,” or “theme” within your answer.
2. Draw a timeline of key events in Santiago’s life and one of yours. How do they compare? (You may use a timeline template when answering this question.)
  1. Choose 5-7 key events in Santiago’s life and include a short description as to why each event was important.
  2. Choose 4-6 key events in your life with ages or dates and include a short description as to why each event was important. This timeline will be turned into a narrative essay in class once the school year has started.
3. Choose a quote from the book (include page number) and make specific connections to a novel, poem, non-fiction work, movie, historical or cultural event, or religious text of which you have knowledge. Connections can be thematic, character connections, life’s journey, etc.

## 10th Grade

### **Bible/English Book: *The Lost Letters of Pergamum: A Story from the New Testament World***

#### **Bible Assignment:**

1. **Paper:** During the first week of class, students will submit a 300 (min) - 500 word (max) letter written in a similar fashion to the Longenecker book using Turnitin.com (instructions on use of this resource will be given during the first week of classes).
  - a. The paper will be written from the perspective of John Mark (the author of the gospel of Mark who is also referred to as John or Mark) to his mother reflecting on his ministry journeys.
  - b. New Testament references (bread crumbs) for understanding John Mark. Read these in their greater context.:
    - i. Acts 12:12 & 25, 13:13, and 15:36-40
    - ii. Colossians 4:10
    - iii. II Timothy 4:11
    - iv. I Peter 5:13
  - c. Your letter will be informed by the scripture above and draw from the things you have learned about 1st century culture in the Longenecker book. Like the book, your letter will be speculative on things John Mark may have experienced.
  - d. Purpose - To assist students in understanding scripture in cultural context.
2. **Quiz:** During the first week of classes, students will take a **quiz** designed to demonstrate they have read the book.
3. The book will be referenced throughout the school year to help provide cultural context in New Testament understanding. *It is, therefore, required that students keep possession of the book throughout the school year.*

## Additional Assignment for Honors English 10

1. *Choose one of the following books:*

*The Pearl* by John Steinbeck: *The Pearl* tells the story of a poor Mexican peasant named Kino who finds a valuable pearl that brings both hope and destruction to his family. It is a stirring tale that delves into the destructive power of greed.

*Lord of the Flies* by William Golding: *Lord of the Flies* tells the story of a group of young boys who find themselves alone on a deserted island. They develop rules and a system of organization, but without any adults to serve as a civilizing impulse, the children eventually become violent and brutal.

2. *Choose one of the novels above, annotate* as you read for **passages that have meaning** to you, for passages that you think indicate a **theme**, and for **vocabulary words** you do not know.

3. **Write a three body paragraph essay** about how a character faces conflict. **(Paragraph 1)** Identify the conflicts one of the characters faces **(Paragraph 2)** Discuss whether the character deals with the conflicts he or she faces successfully or not and **(Paragraph 3)** Identify a theme that arises out of the way the character deals with the conflicts.

- a. The introductory paragraph should have a thesis statement.
- b. Follow grammatical conventions and use MLA format.
- c. Bring your printed essay on the first day of class.

## 11th Grade

### **Bible/English Book: *10 Questions Every Teen Should Ask (and Answer) about Christianity***

#### **Bible Assignment:**

1. **Book Report** (*due on the first day of class*): Students will choose a chapter and write a 2-page book report on that chapter with the following outline:
  - a. **Question**: What question does the author address in your chapter and how does she explain its significance during this cultural moment?
  - b. **Answer**: What answers does the author give to the question?
  - c. **Response**: What made you interested in choosing this chapter? What did you think of how she developed the question and answer? What other thoughts do you think the church needs to consider with regard to the topic of your chapter?

#### **Additional Assignment for Honors English 11**

1. Read **one** of the following plays:

*The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams, 1944

*A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry, 1959
2. After reading the play, complete the following assignment:
  - a. Write a 5-paragraph essay discussing how a character's internal conflict reflects his/her place in society.
  - b. You may choose one character from the play and discuss that character through all three body paragraphs, or you may choose three separate characters and discuss each one individually in his/her own body paragraph. Each body paragraph should have two quotations from the play for supporting evidence. Your essay should follow MLA format. Be sure to proofread your work for spelling and grammar.

## Additional Assignment for AP Language and Composition (11th Grade)

1. **Choose** a book from the following list you have not yet read before and read it. Do not consult any type of notes like Sparknotes but rely on your own interpretation. Each book is nonfiction and presents a character that faces conflict.

*Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer

*Educated* by Tara Westover

*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot

*Night* by Elie Wiesel

2. Identify the author's main argument or message.
3. In a multi-paragraph essay, write an analysis explaining how the author uses 2-3 primary rhetorical strategies to present the **argument or message (theme)**. Some **rhetorical strategies** you might consider include symbolism, figurative language, description, anecdotes, the appeals-(ethos, logos, pathos), flashback, foreshadowing.
  - a. Your introductory paragraph should identify the author's argument (message) and primary rhetorical strategies.
  - b. Use textual evidence to illustrate the rhetorical strategies.
  - c. Use MLA format.
  - d. **Your essay will be due on the first day of class.**

## 12th Grade

### **Bible/English Book: *The Paradise King: The Tragic History and Spectacular Future of Everything according to Jesus of Nazareth***

#### **Bible Assignment**

1. **Paper** (*due the first week of school*): Students will write a 500 (minimum) to 850 (maximum) word paper on a character analysis of one of the characters in the book. This character analysis should answer the following:
  - a. Where did you see the character change/grow?
  - b. What traits do you see in the character you could apply to your own life?
  - c. How do you think the character you chose would function in our culture today?
2. Please be aware that one of the main characters is Jesus. We understand we should always aim to be like Christ, and for those who are Christians we are being sanctified and becoming more like Him. I ask that you select any character mentioned besides Christ.
3. The paper needs to be written in MLA Format.

#### **Additional Assignment for Dual Enrollment (DE) English 12**

1. Each of the following works of non-fiction has a persuasive point. Choose one of the books below and, after reading, **complete four journal entries from the questions listed**. Each journal entry should be a minimum of 200 words. You must type your answers, be thorough, and use good grammar and spelling. **You must choose a book you haven't read before.**
  - a. *Same Kind of Different as Me* by Ron Hall, Denver Moore, and Lynne Vincent
  - b. *Outcasts United: An American Town, a Refugee Team, and One Woman's Quest to Make a Difference* by Warren St. John. Do not read the Young Reader's version.
  - c. *The Sun Does Shine* by Anthony Ray Hinton
  - d. *Long Is The Way* by Alton Hardy and Billy Ivey
  - e. *Unreasonable Hospitality* by Will Guidara
  - f. *All Over but the Shoutin'* by Rick Bragg
2. Explain the author's purpose in telling the story? Why is he/she telling it? Is there some greater motive? If so, what is it and how do you know? Include textual evidence to support your answer.
3. What is the rhetorical context for your chosen book? In other words, what social, cultural, political, or other circumstances motivated the author to write the book? What was going on in the world at the time the book was written and published to prompt its creation?
4. What types of evidence or tools of persuasion does the author use to convince you?
5. The author of each of these books serves as a character within the story itself. What does this add to the story?

## Additional Assignment for Honors English 12

### *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie

1. Please read the novel and complete the following assignment. There will also be a test on the novel during the first week of school.
2. **Essay Directions:** Choose **ONE** of the prompts and write a well-developed essay. Your essay must include a thesis, correct use of transitions, correct spelling and grammar, MLA format, and in-text citations where applicable. Each essay should be a minimum of five paragraphs. The length of each paragraph should be as follows: introduction—no more than four sentences; body paragraphs--between five-ten sentences; conclusion--no more than four sentences. Please put the number of your prompt on your essay.
  1. Justice Wargrave feels that some of the guests on Indian Island (Soldier Island) are more guilty of murder than others because of the degrees to which they were responsible for the deaths that took place in their pasts. Do you agree that there are degrees of responsibility that can be assigned to those involved in a death? Write a persuasive essay that uses examples from the book, examples from real life, and/or hypothetical examples to support why you feel the way you do.
  2. Several of the guests on Indian Island appear to be recognized, upstanding members of society who contribute positively to their communities. Provide some examples of characters in this novel who contribute positively to their communities. Can a person's acts of service to others erase a poor decision he or she has made in the past? If so, why, when, and how? If not, why not?
  3. Emily Brent feels as though God will judge those who commit crimes. Vera Claythorne also suggests that she feels similarly (though she doesn't specify that she believes in God). Do you believe, as these women appear to, that what goes around comes around? What reasons do you have for feeling the way you do? Be sure to defend your answer by using real life examples, textual evidence (with correct in-text citations), and/or hypothetical support.
  4. Of all the guests who stay on Indian Island, which one deserves the most sympathy? Explain your answer using specific evidence from the text with correct in-text citations.



## Additional Assignment for AP Literature and Composition (12th Grade)

1. All of the following are coming-of-age novels, or bildungsromans, which recount the psychological or moral development of a protagonist from youth to maturity, when this character recognizes his or her place in the world. **Choose a novel you have never read before from the list below.**
2. **Essay Prompt:** After reading, select a single pivotal moment in the psychological or moral development of the protagonist, and write a well-organized essay that analyzes how that single moment shapes the meaning of the work as a whole. **\*The “meaning of the work as a whole” is simply the theme of the novel.**
3. You will turn in your essay on the first day of class. It should be typed, double-spaced, in 12 point Times New Roman font. No direct quotes should be used in this essay. You will briefly paraphrase the plot moment, use a marker verb (reveals, highlights, communicates, etc.), and write commentary about how the plot moment reveals the theme. Write the entire essay in literary present tense. A marker verb handout may be found by simply completing a Google search: (Marker Verbs for Literary Analysis)

- |                                       |                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <i>Jane Eyre</i>                   | by Charlotte Bronte |
| 2. <i>All the Light We Cannot See</i> | by Anthony Doerr    |
| 3. <i>Peace Like a River</i>          | by Leif Enger       |
| 4. <i>Northanger Abbey</i>            | by Jane Austen      |

Tips for Organization of Body Paragraphs:

After choosing a “single pivotal moment,” craft the thesis to explore three arguable points about how that moment “shapes the meaning of the work as a whole.” Naturally, the body paragraphs will contain a topic sentence about one of the points and the commentary will connect that point to the theme.