



Bergenfield Public Schools  
Humanities Department  
Summer Reading 2025

**Due: September 4, 2025**

Dear incoming **English 9** student,

Your first assignment is to **read at least one book of your choice (fiction or nonfiction)** over the summer and to complete a **Summer Reading Choice Board Project** for your book. This assignment is **mandatory** for all incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade BHS students next year.

***The Use of AI/Plagiarizing Other Work(s).*** Using AI is NOT permitted and will result in receiving a zero for the assignment. A major focus of 9th grade English is developing brainstorming, prewriting, and drafting skills using original thought and research skills.

If your work is identified as AI generated or plagiarized, **your assignment will NOT be accepted. You will receive an automatic zero** for the assignment. There will be **NO** exceptions to this policy.

This year we will be submitting all of our writing assignments to [Turnitin.com](https://turnitin.com) for originality and AI checks. If your Summer Reading Assignment is suspected of plagiarism or AI assistance, it will be submitted to [Turnitin.com](https://turnitin.com) for a scan.

## Summer Reading Choice Board Assignment

### Instructions for Students:

1. Choose **one** activity from **each** column (total of 3 activities).
2. Complete all three chosen activities based on your summer reading book.
3. Be sure to label each completed activity with the column and activity selected (For example, "Creative Response: Alternate Ending")
4. Please be sure to identify the title of the book and author on each of your assignments.
5. Each selection is followed by the proper medium, in parentheses, for creating your content. The majority of your assignments are to be drafted on Google Documents, with the exception of a few tasks that offer alternative options.
6. You may, however, print your work and turn it in on the first day of school. Please be sure to maintain your work on your Google Drive in the event that you are asked to edit/modify it or share it with your classmates during the first week of school.
7. Your work should demonstrate thoughtful engagement with the text and attention to detail.
8. Be prepared to write about the novel you read over the summer during your first full week of classes in September.
9. All assignments are due by the first day of school: Thursday, September 4th

### Grading Criteria:

- Depth of understanding of the text (40%)
- Creativity and originality (25%)
- Quality of execution and ideas (25%)
- Following directions and completing all requirements (10%)

Creative Response (Choose 1)	Analysis & Reflection (Choose 1)	Connection and Reflection (Choose 1)
<b>Character Journal</b> Write 5 diary entries from a main character's perspective, revealing thoughts not explicitly stated in the text. (Google Document)	<b>Theme Analysis</b> Identify 3 major themes and provide textual evidence showing how they develop throughout the book. (Google Document)	<b>Text-to-Self Connection</b> Write about a time in your own life that reminded you of an event or feeling a character experienced in the story. How did you handle the situation similarly or differently? (Google Document)
<b>Alternate Ending</b> Write a different conclusion to the story (2-3 pages) that remains true to the characters and themes. (Google Document)	<b>Literary Devices</b> Identify 8 different literary devices used in the text with examples and explain their effectiveness. (Google Document)	<b>Text-to-World Connection</b> Research a current event or social issue that relates to a theme or conflict in the story. Write a short essay explaining the connection and why it's important. (Google Document)
<b>Found Poetry</b> Create 2 poems using only words and phrases from the book that capture key moments or themes. Surround your poem with images that	<b>Character Evolution</b> Track how a character changes throughout the story with specific evidence and analysis. (Google Document)	<b>Moral Reflection</b> Think about a difficult choice a character made. Would you have made the same choice? Why or why not? Explain your reasoning. (Google Document)

express the ideas found within your poems. (Google Document, Google Drawing, or Artwork Completed by Hand)		
<b>Book Art</b> Create an artistic representation (drawing, painting, collage) of a significant scene with a written explanation. (Artwork created by hand, Google Drawing if collage, Google Document for written explanation)	<b>Critical Review</b> Write a thoughtful review analyzing the book's strengths and weaknesses (1-2 pages). (Google Document)	<b>Personal Growth Reflection</b> How has reading this story changed your perspective or made you think differently about a particular topic or idea? (Google Document)
<b>Scene Perspective</b> Rewrite a key scene from a different character's point of view to show their thoughts and feelings. (Google Document)	<b>Character Motivation</b> Choose a key decision a character makes and analyze what motivates that decision using evidence from the text. (Google Document)	<b>Empathy Exercise</b> Put yourself in the shoes of a character who faced a challenge. Write about what emotions you might feel and what you might do in their place. (Google Document)

Remember, reading a book and completing three activities from the choice board is a **mandatory** assignment for all incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students at BHS. When school starts in September, we will delve right into your novels and explore their characters, symbols, and themes very closely. **Have a great summer, and happy reading!**

If you have any questions regarding the required summer reading assignment please contact Ms. Restivo, Supervisor of Humanities.

Ms. Restivo

201-385-8600 X1917

[trestivo@bergenfield.org](mailto:trestivo@bergenfield.org)

Sincerely,

**BHS 9th Grade English Teachers**