

UPPER SCHOOL ENGLISH SUMMER READING 2024

Students entering Grade 9 should read [The Alchemist](#) by Paulo Coelho.

This classic novel follows the young protagonist Santiago as he goes on an epic quest that will help him discover his purpose in life. The people he meets, the obstacles he encounters, and the lessons he learns about himself and the world around him along the way prove just as valuable as the treasure he seeks. Santiago's journey sets the stage for our main theme in English 9, *Finding Your Voice*, and each of the books we'll read in the coming year will feature characters and narrators learning to use their voice to express themselves and help others. Students in Sayre's Middle School will receive a copy of the book in the edition that will be used; Sayre families do not need to purchase it.

Students entering Grade 10 should read a novel of their choice

One of the goals of English 10 is for you to read widely in order to discover your interests and develop your pleasure in reading. You'll work toward this goal by reading things that interest you and challenge you and by sharing your reading journey with your classmates and teachers, and that journey starts with summer reading.

Select a novel that you have not read previously that is aimed at an adult audience (not a book for kids or young adults/teens). It can be realistic, historical, fantasy, sci-fi, mystery, or any genre you like. It can be old or recent but no shorter than 150 pages, and it must be fiction (not true) and a novel (not a play, not a collection of stories or poems). You can read it as a paperback, on your Kindle, or as an audiobook, but you should have access to a physical copy when you return to school in August.

If you need some help deciding, talk to your friends, teachers, and family. You might consult Book Tok or lists like this [Penguin list of classic novels](#) or *The Atlantic's* list of [Great American Novels](#) or the many lists on [GoodReads](#). Your book doesn't need to be a classic; it needs to interest you.

Please share the title and author of the book you plan to read on [this Google form](#) by the end of the day Monday, May 20.

Students entering the 11/12 English Seminar should purchase *Selected Tales* by Edgar Allan Poe and read short stories noted below.

Edgar Allan Poe, *Selected Tales* (Oxford UP) ISBN 978-0199535774.

"The Fall of the House of Usher"

"The Man of the Crowd"

"The Mask of the Red Death"

"The Tell-tale Heart"

"The Pit and the Pendulum"

“The Cask of Amontillado“

Students entering AP English Language & Composition should read a book-length memoir of their choice.

Memoirs can show us how personal narrative is often not an end in itself but a method of developing writing with a specific purpose. By choosing a book for yourself, you will continue pursuing your individual reading interests after the independent reading you did in English 10. If you need some help deciding, you can consult Dr. O'Connor's recommendations and recommendations from several other sources [here](#). Please share the title and author of the memoir you plan to read – and have not read previously – on [this Google form](#) by the end of the day Monday, May 20.

Students entering AP English Literature & Composition should read [Station Eleven](#) by Emily St. John Mandel.

Before and after the deadliest pandemic the world has ever faced, the characters of *Station Eleven* navigate Hollywood parties, battle post-apocalyptic wastelands, fall in love, deal with loss, delve into their pasts, and follow their imaginations—all while discovering what unites us, what divides us, and what makes us human. A study guide to assist your comprehension of the novel will be emailed out in early to mid-June.