



## High School Summer Reading Assignments 2025-2026

Summer reading is 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.*

*Academic Integrity Reminder:* It is important to remember that the expectation is that the work submitted will be the student's own and that AI should not be used for these assignments.

### 9th Grade

**Bible/English Book:** *The Pilgrim's Progress: A Readable Modern-Day Version of John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan, revision by Alan Vermilye

(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*  
by Bruce W. Longenecker

### Bible Assignment:

1. **Written Response.** Choose **THREE** of the question options below to answer as a response to reading *The Lost Letters of Pergamum*. Answer in complete sentences.
  - a. After reading the book, what is “going around” in your mind? What are you pondering or don’t fully understand - a question or two that you have after reading?
  - b. What are 2-3 main points from the book that stood out to you as important?
  - c. What is something you may have known previously but is now more clear or solid in your mind after reading this book?
  - d. What would you want to add to this book (ideas, themes, writing style, character development, etc.) that you believe may have been left out or needed more treatment?
  - e. What point or points do you think you and the author of the book might disagree about? What would you want to offer helpful pushback on?
  - f. What is an example of how you can apply something from this book in your life in the near future?
2. **Quiz:** During the first week of classes, students will take a **quiz** designed to demonstrate they have read the book.

**Note:** 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 five 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.
- The introductory paragraph should have a thesis statement.
  - Follow grammatical conventions and use MLA format.
  - 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* by Rebecca McLaughlin

#### 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?
2. **Quiz** (*will be on the first day of class*): Students will take a multiple choice quiz on the book to make sure they've read the entire book, not just their 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

*Night* by Elie Wiesel

2. Identify the author's main argument or message about how one should react in the face of conflict.
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 figurative language, description, anecdotes, the appeals-(ethos, logos, pathos), juxtaposition, comparison, repetition (of ideas, images, phrases).
4.
  - a. Your introductory paragraph should identify the author's argument (message) and primary rhetorical strategies.
  - b. Avoid plot summary by using textual evidence to illustrate the rhetorical strategies instead of *telling* the story.
  - c. Use MLA format.
  - d. **Bring a printed draft of your essay on the first day of class.**

## 12th Grade

**Bible/English Book:** *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson

### Bible Assignment

1. **Write** two paragraphs, about 200-250 words total, analyzing one theme from the book, like the nature of sin, redemption, or what it says about being human, from a Christian perspective. Use specific examples from the story and connect to biblical principles or to Scripture to back up your thoughts.
  - a. In your writing, make it clear ***what*** you believe about the theme, ***why*** you believe it, and ***support*** your reasoning with evidence from the book or Bible. You won't be graded on having a "right" answer but on how well you explain and defend your perspective. Keep it thoughtful and clear, like you're talking to a friend who is curious about your take on the book. This assignment is due the first week of class and will be the starting point for an in-class project/presentation we'll work on early in the semester.
2. **Quiz:** You'll have a quiz to show you've read *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. It'll be straightforward, just to check that you're familiar with the book.

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

1. Choose one of the following texts for your nonfiction summer reading. **You must choose a book that you have not read before. Each student should purchase the text and have it in class on the first day of school.**
  - a. *Same Kind of Different as Me* by Ron Hall, Denver Moore, and Lynne Vincent
  - b. *The Sun Does Shine* by Anthony Ray Hinton
  - c. *Long Is The Way* by Alton Hardy and Billy Ivey

These non-fiction texts have a persuasive argument format. As you read the text, complete the following annotations. This information will be used the first week of school to write an in-class essay.

**In preparation for discussion and an in-class writing assignment, complete the following annotations for every 5 chapters or 50 pages.** Annotate means to take notes about the important concepts and ideas as you read.

- **Purpose:** Highlight several pieces of evidence from the text that identifies the author's purpose for telling the story. Label it as the purpose.
- **Rhetorical Devices:** Highlight some examples of each: Label them in the margin:
  - Ethos
  - Pathos
  - Logos
- **Quotation:** Highlight any important quotes that you identify as you read from every five chapters. Be prepared to explain its overall importance to the chapter/novel and/or why you chose it as your featured quote.
- **Characters:** The authors of these texts serve as characters within the story itself. Be prepared to discuss how these characters add to their own story. What makes it more effective or non-effective because they are telling their own story?
- **Literary Device:** Located five different examples of literary devices in the text. Highlight the device and identify it in the margins. These devices add to the storytelling experience and the persuasive techniques used by the authors. Be ready to discuss how your devices help tell 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)

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|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 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.