



Rochester Adams High School



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Dear Future Highlanders,

Welcome to Honors Language Arts 9 at Rochester Adams High School! I look forward to meeting you and learning together during the 2025-2026 school year. Students must read three books over the summer and complete the assignments for each reading. It's essential to actively read these texts since we will analyze and discuss them through various activities this fall.

After reviewing this information, please share it with your parent(s) or guardian(s). If you have any questions, please email me at jpillsbury@rochester.k12.mi.us. I will update the summer website [HERE](#) to help you with any review information you may need. I hope you have a wonderful summer. Happy reading!

Mrs. Pillsbury

Join the summer reading Google Classroom [kpykfzdk](#) to find copies of the assignments. DO NOT turn in the assignments here; you will do that in your classroom hour on Google Classroom.

Summer Reading Assignments

1. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor REVISED* by Thomas C. Foster.
Read ONLY the following chapters.
 "The Intro"
 Chapter 1 "Every Trip Is a Quest"
 Chapter 4 "Now Where Have I Seen Her Before?"
 Chapter 12 "Is That a Symbol?"
 - a. Read selected chapters of the text. The link is [HERE](#), but it is recommended that you purchase the book if you plan on continuing into Honors 10 and AP Lit.
 - b. Access the assignment [HERE](#), make a copy, and complete the assignment. (DUE AUGUST 26).
 - c. Download a PDF of the COMPLETED assignment and upload the PDF to www.turnitin.com using class ID 48902966 and enrollment key **summer-jp** in the HTRLLAP notes. This is a 20-point assignment.
2. Read the novella *Animal Farm* by George Orwell.
 - a. Link [HERE](#) for the PDF of the novella, or pick one up from the library or a bookstore. I have copies in my class if you want to pick one up.
 - b. Answer the questions [HERE](#) as you read the novella. You will need to

make a copy of the questions and have a hard copy for the Socratic Seminar.

- c. Complete the [one-pager](#) activity. Due Sept 8.
- d. Prepare for the Socratic guide [HERE](#), and prepare for the discussion. On September 5, 2025, you will participate in a special debate called a Socratic Seminar. This discussion is run entirely by students without any teacher input. The purpose of the debate is to explore the novel to develop a deeper understanding of its themes, ideas, and historical context. To prepare for a thoughtful academic discussion, you will need to complete the assignment. The Socratic counts for 30 points. I will go over the protocol for Socratic seminars in class.
- e. You will also take a 25-point quiz on the book, which will cover characters, setting, plot, and allegory.

3. Young Adult Fiction

- a. Choose ONE Contemporary Literature selection from the RCS Battle of the Books list below: Choose from the following novels ONLY:

[AHS School Summer List- Contemporary Young Adult Novel Options](#)

- b. Create a tissue box book report using the guidelines in this document [HERE](#). Our discussion regarding the YA novel takes place on August 28, 2025,

Please note that some of the book options listed above may contain mature content and/or language. Review the books with your parent or guardian to determine what you feel is most appropriate when making your reading selections.

District Summer Assignment Policy:

Summer work is necessary for honors and AP courses to help students build prior knowledge essential for the curriculum at the beginning of the school year.

All typed summer work must be completed in **ONE** Google Doc per assignment. Any assignments submitted with copied and pasted text will not receive credit.

Please refer to Rochester Community School's [Academic Integrity Policy](#) for further clarification on expectations for completing summer work.

Check the calendar for due dates [2025-2026 HELA9 calendar](#)