

11th Grade Summer Reading Assignment 2025

Literary & Informational Choices

Objective:

To enhance your understanding and critical thinking skills by analyzing and annotating various texts. You will choose a novel from the provided selections and create detailed annotations based on specific criteria for each. See each reading section for specific instructions.

Instructions:

1. Select Your Texts:

- Choose one poem, one short story, and one informational text from the lists provided by your teacher below.

2. Read and Annotate:

- As you read each text, make detailed annotations. **Your annotations should focus on some of the following aspects:**
 - A. **Main Ideas:** Identify and summarize the central themes or messages of the text.
 - B. **Morals and Ethics:** Reflect on any ethical dilemmas or moral questions presented in the text.
 - C. **Significant Quotes or Passages:** Highlight and explain quotes or sections that stood out to you and why.
 - D. **Personal and Academic Relevance:** Connect the text to your own experiences, both personal and academic. How do the themes or messages relate to your life or studies?
 - E. **Important Lessons or Takeaways:** Note any important lessons or insights you gained from the text.
 - F. **Interconnectedness/Blending Texts:** Consider how the poem, short story, and informational text relate to each other. Look for common themes, messages, or ideas that connect them.

3. Annotation Tips:

- Use a highlighter, sticky notes, or the margin of the text for your annotations.
- Please label your annotations using the aspects outlined below in Section 2.
- Write clear and concise notes for each of the focus areas listed above.
- If using digital texts, utilize annotation tools provided by the platform (e.g., comments, highlights).

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Poems (Select 1 of the options below)

Your choice poem should have at least 4 comprehensive annotations.

- ["The World Is Too Much With Us" by William Wordsworth](#)
In this poem, Wordsworth laments humanity's disconnect from nature, criticizing the materialism and industrialization that dominate human lives. He expresses a deep sense of loss and regret for the natural beauty that is overlooked and devalued by society.
- ["Ozymandias" by Percy Bysshe Shelley](#)
Depicts a traveler who encounters a broken statue in the desert, once a grand monument to a ruler named Ozymandias. The poem reflects on the transient nature of power and the inevitable decline of even the mightiest empires.
- ["Sonnet 55" by William Shakespeare](#)
Shakespeare contemplates the enduring power of poetry to preserve memory and legacy beyond the ravages of time. The poem suggests that written words can achieve a form of immortality, outlasting physical monuments and material accomplishments.

Short Stories (Select 1 of the short stories below)

Click on the titles of the short stories to access the text. Your choice short story should have at least 10 comprehensive annotations.

- ["The Wretched and the Beautiful" by E. Lily Yu](#)
Captivating exploration of the complexities of love, identity, and sacrifice within a futuristic society. Through the lens of artificial intelligence and human relationships, Yu delves into themes of longing, betrayal, and the search for meaning in a world where boundaries blur between the artificial and the real.
- ["The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson](#)
A chilling tale set in a seemingly ordinary small town, where an annual ritual takes a shocking turn. Through the ritual of a lottery, Jackson unveils the darker aspects of human nature and the dangers of blindly following tradition.
- ["The Monkey's Paw" W.W. Jacobs](#)
A gripping tale of a family who comes into possession of a magical artifact that grants wishes but with dire consequences. As they succumb to the temptation of altering fate, they learn the harsh lesson that some desires come at a terrible price.

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Nonfiction Articles

Click on the titles of the short stories to access the text. **Your choice nonfiction article should have at least 6 comprehensive annotations.**

- **[“Alexander the Brutal” Peter Preston](#)**

The appeal of Alexander the Great is infinitely romantic. An amazingly young, amazingly brilliant warrior king conquers the world and, in myth at least, becomes godlike. His victories are the serious stuff of military history, but the question lingers, sourly insistent among so much sweet adulation: Was Alexander really "great" or would a better-suited nickname be "Alexander the Appalling?"
- **[“Citizens United v. FEC: Supreme Court Ruling on Money and Free Speech”](#)**

The article discusses the implications of the U.S. Supreme Court's 2010 decision in Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission (FEC) on campaign finance regulation and the rise of super PACs, which paved the way for additional campaign money from corporations, unions and other interests and prevented the government from setting limits on corporate political spending.
- **[Ethics Plays an Important Role in Artificial Intelligence” Peter Singer](#)**

The article discusses the implications of AI achieving human-level intelligence and beyond, and how humans should prepare for the potential risks associated with such advancements.

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Annotation Rubric

	5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points
Quantity of Annotations	Annotations are thorough, covering the text comprehensively.	Annotations are mostly thorough, covering most key parts of the text.	Annotations are adequate, covering several important parts of the text.	Annotations are somewhat limited, covering few parts of the text.	Annotations are minimal, covering very few parts of the text.	Annotations are absent or nearly absent.
Quality of Annotations	Annotations are consistently insightful and demonstrate a deep understanding of the text. They include critical thinking and make connections beyond the text.	Annotations are generally insightful and show a good understanding of the text. Some critical thinking and connections are made.	Annotations are adequate and show a basic understanding of the text. They may lack depth but are still relevant.	Annotations show limited understanding and are mostly superficial. Few critical connections are made.	Annotations are minimal and do not demonstrate understanding or engagement with the text.	No annotations or annotations are irrelevant to the text.
Variety of Annotations	Annotations include a diverse range of comments, questions, connections, predictions, and reflections.	Annotations include several types but may be missing one or two.	Annotations are mostly of one or two types, with limited variety.	Annotations lack variety and primarily consist of one type.	Annotations show very little variety and depth.	No variety in annotations.
Textual Evidence	Annotations consistently reference specific textual evidence, including quotes, page numbers, or specific examples.	Annotations frequently reference textual evidence but may occasionally lack specifics.	Annotations sometimes reference textual evidence but lack consistency.	Annotations rarely reference textual evidence.	Annotations almost never reference textual evidence.	No textual evidence is referenced.
Organization and Clarity	Annotations are well-organized, clearly written, and easy to follow. They enhance the reader's understanding of the text.	Annotations are mostly well-organized and clear, with a few minor issues.	Annotations are somewhat organized and clear but may have several issues that make them difficult to follow.	Annotations are poorly organized and unclear, making them hard to understand.	Annotations are very poorly organized and lack clarity, significantly hindering understanding.	Annotations are disorganized and incomprehensible.