

English III

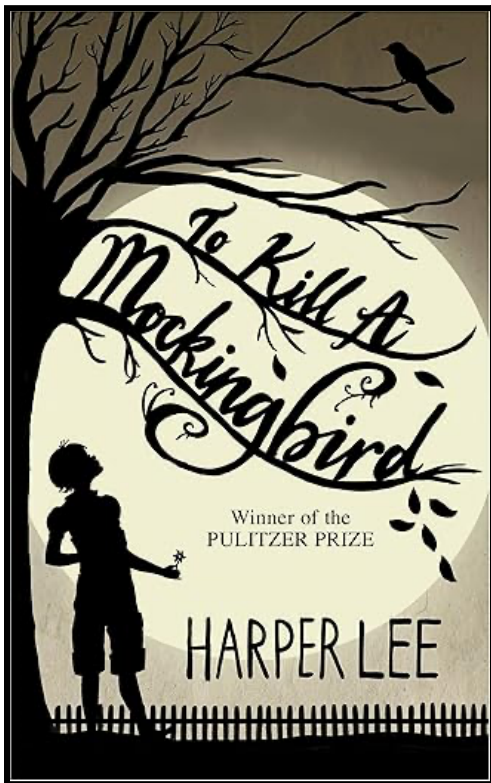
Summer Reading Assignment 2026

Teacher: Mr. Barkett: abarkett@salesian.com

Welcome to English III. The focus of this class is American literature. Your summer reading assignment is to read To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee and prepare for a test on it in class.

You may have read the book before, either on your own or as a school assignment. That's great! But I expect you to read it again.

It is important that you not rely on summaries, movies, analysis videos, etc., although those things are fine to do alongside your reading. I also strongly discourage you from listening to the audiobook. Audiobooks are great in many ways, but *listening* is not the same cognitive activity that reading is. The two actions hit your brain differently. The writing prompts on the book will be designed to reward careful reading.



To Kill a Mockingbird was published in 1960. It is arguably the most widely recognized and referenced novel in American literature. This makes it essential reading in American literary studies, and it is the kind of text that college professors assume all incoming students are familiar with.

As a foundational text, the novel is straightforward, readable, and plot-driven. It approaches themes of race and justice through a deliberately limited perspective. Its treatment of these themes is not comprehensive, but the novel remains an accessible entry point into those themes. The works we will read during the year are more stylistically and thematically complex, more figurative, and they advance the themes that Harper Lee's novel introduces.

Some things to know about English III: We will rarely, if ever, use laptops in class. Most assignments and assessments are done entirely in class. Homework is generally reading. The expectation for all incoming juniors is that your writing is professional. Tests usually ask a mixture of recall and analysis questions, including but not limited to: multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, and long answer or essay.

If you have questions, you're welcome to email me, but I would encourage you to save them for the first day of school.