

Olathe Schools Honors English 9 Summer Assignment

Olathe North	Olathe South	Olathe East	Olathe Northwest	Olathe West
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2026-2027

The Rationale

The writer and illustrator Roald Dahl once said, "If you are going to get anywhere in life you have to read a lot of books." You may be asking why you are being tasked with completing a summer assignment. According to research, the volume of daily reading has a direct correlation to success both in and outside of school with a recommendation of at least 20 minutes a day. The following chart illustrates the benefits of a daily reading habit.

Student A	Student B	Student C
20 minutes per day	5 minutes per day	1 minute per day
1,800,000 words per year	282, 000 words per year	8,000 words per year
Scores in the 90 th percentile on standardized tests	Scores in the 50 th percentile on standardized tests	Scores in the 10 th percentile on standardized tests

The Assignment

Choose ONE book from the list below. Actively read and annotate for significant character development. Complete this task by the first day of school.

Directions for Book Selection

To challenge yourself and to give your teacher an accurate picture of where you are as a student, please select a book that you have not previously read. We highly encourage you to buy a copy of the text, but if you cannot, check the book out from the library. If you are unable to obtain a copy on your own, please reach out to a teacher from your building for assistance.

1. *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd
2. *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
3. *Concrete Rose* by Angie Thomas
4. *Patron Saints of Nothing* by Randy Ribay
5. *With the Fire on High* by Elizabeth Acevedo

Directions for Annotations

- Track character development in the beginning, middle, and end of the novel. Pay special attention to the following:
 - Beginning: Moments that show the character's thoughts, actions, and beliefs
 - Middle: Events, characters, and conflicts that influence the character's development
 - End: Moments that show the character's development in thoughts, actions, and beliefs
- You will need to refer to specific annotations and quotations from the text when you return to school.
 - We recommend writing your annotations on sticky notes. Then, place the notes on the appropriate page.
 - You can also write your annotations on notebook paper. If you do this, you will need to include page numbers.

Reading the novel thoroughly and annotating effectively will help prepare you for a timed essay, which you will write in class.

Your Honors 9 Teachers:

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