

Gibbs High School 2026 – 2027 Summer Reading English I Honors

Please read ALL requirements carefully.
Points will be deducted for not adhering to them.



Contact Information

- Greg Pomeroy, instructor: brady.pomeroy@knoxschools.org
 - Jennifer Williams, Dept. Chair and instructor: jennifer.williams@knoxschools.org
- Please do not hesitate to contact these instructors with questions!!!

Due Date

Friday, August 14, 2026 – All assignments are due on this day regardless of which semester you take the class.

Expectations – Both novels must be read over the summer!

- Read and annotate *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. Have a copy for class.
- Read and annotate a second novel of your choice from the provided list. Have a copy for class.
- Create a handwritten Reading Journal for each novel. See Assignment details in this packet.
- Additional assignments will follow in the classroom.

All of your assignments should be completed and submitted in **ONE** spiral notebook or composition notebook. Stapled loose leaf or typed assignments will not be accepted.

Write your full name on the front cover of your notebook. Attach a paperclip to a page at the midpoint of the notebook to separate the two novels and their corresponding assignments. Label the first page *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury; the section that starts at the paperclip should be labeled the name of your Choice Read book and its author. Under the name of each book, write the copyright year and the number of pages.



PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Most importantly, we expect you to complete your assignments independently and without assistance. You are expected to submit original work.

Do **NOT** use any type of AI or ChatBot, Cliff's Notes, Spark Notes, internet sites, movie versions, etc. because we want to know your thoughts and interactions regarding these novels rather than another scholar's criticism.

Plagiarism and AI-generated submissions will not be tolerated. You will be asked to sign a "Reading Pledge upon entering the classroom in the fall. If found in violation, a meeting will be scheduled to discuss the consequences.

For Clarification:

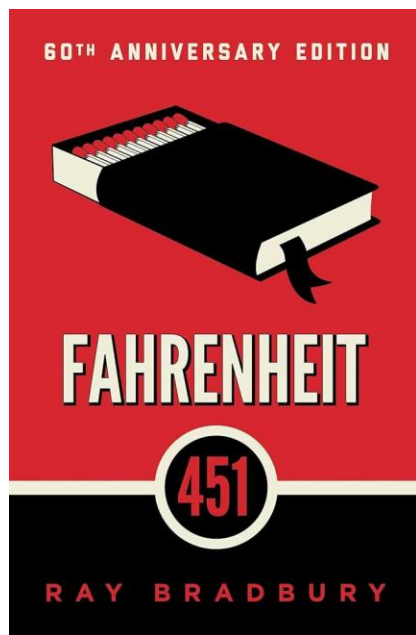
According to *Harbrace Handbook, 15th edition*:

Plagiarism is defined as "presenting someone else's ideas, research, or opinion as your own without proper documentation, even if it has been rephrased." It includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Copying verbatim all or part of another's written work;
2. Using phrases, figures, or illustrations without citing the source;
3. Paraphrasing ideas, conclusions, or research without citing the source;
4. Using all or part of a literary plot, poem, or film without attributing the work to its creator."

As chatbots and AI increase in availability and sophistication, students must also consider how academic dishonesty, labeled as cheating in [KCS BOE policy J-191](#), includes copying written work from the internet without appropriately citing the source of the content.

Both [MLA](#) and [APA](#) now provide methods of citing AI-generated content, and [AP](#) and [IB](#) have issued statements addressing use of generative AI. However, classroom teachers and building-level administrators have the discretion to determine whether this content will be accepted, just as any other online source may be limited for academic purposes. At this point in time, any use of AI is prohibited in our classrooms.



***Fahrenheit 451* PARENTAL ADVISORY**

This novel represents the dangers of technology and a mistrust of written knowledge. This novel contains attempted suicide, death, mild language, and mild violence. **Should an alternate title be requested, the request must be submitted to Mr. Pomeroy and Mrs. Williams no later than July 16, 2026 via email.**

Summary of the novel:

Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television “family.” But when he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn’t live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known.

[Goodreads.com]

As you read *Fahrenheit 451*, pay close attention to the following:

- technology
- censorship
- conformity
- the importance of books
- manipulation of the masses
- utopia and dystopia
- loss of individuality
- the mass media



Choice Novel List

Choose one novel from the list below as your second Summer Reading novel. The purpose of reading this choice novel is to help build your personal “library” of classic literature. This knowledge will help you succeed on the AP Literature Free Response Question #3 in the future. **NOTE:** You will not be allowed to read the same novel twice within the Honors / AP pathway (grades 9-12).

Choice Read PARENTAL ADVISORY: Parents should monitor the choice of book from the list included in this packet for any objectionable content and help their student make a choice accordingly. Consider using commonsensemedia.org for assistance.

***An American Tragedy* by Theodore Dreiser**

'An American Tragedy' is the story of Clyde Griffiths, who spends his life in the desperate pursuit of success. On a deeper, more profound level, it is the masterful portrayal of the society whose values both shape Clyde's ambitions and seal his fate; it is an unsurpassed depiction of the harsh realities of American life and of the dark side of the American dream. Extraordinary in scope and power, vivid in its sense of wholesale human waste, unceasing in its rich compassion, 'An American Tragedy' stands as Theodore Dreiser's supreme achievement. [Goodreads.com]

***Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky**

Raskolnikov, a destitute and desperate former student, wanders through the slums of St Petersburg and commits a random murder without remorse or regret. He imagines himself to be a great man, a Napoleon: acting for a higher purpose beyond conventional moral law. But as he embarks on a dangerous game of cat and mouse with a suspicious police investigator, Raskolnikov is pursued by the growing voice of his conscience and finds the noose of his own guilt tightening around his neck. Only Sonya, a downtrodden sex worker, can offer the chance of redemption. [Goodreads.com]

***Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens**

'In what may be Dickens's best novel, humble, orphaned Pip is apprenticed to the dirty work of the forge but dares to dream of becoming a gentleman — and one day, under sudden and enigmatic circumstances, he finds himself in possession of "great expectations." In this gripping tale of crime and guilt, revenge and reward, the compelling characters include Magwitch, the fearful and fearsome convict; Estella, whose beauty is excelled only by her haughtiness; and the embittered Miss Havisham, an eccentric jilted bride. [Goodreads.com]

***Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison**

As he journeys from the Deep South to the streets and basements of Harlem, from a horrifying "battle royal" where black men are reduced to fighting animals, to a Communist rally where they are elevated to the status of trophies, Ralph Ellison's nameless protagonist ushers readers into a parallel universe that throws our own into harsh and even hilarious relief. Suspenseful and sardonic, narrated in a voice that takes in the symphonic range of the American language, black and white, *Invisible Man* is one of the most audacious and dazzling novels of our century. [Goodreads.com]

***Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte**

Orphaned as a child, Jane has felt an outcast her whole young life. Her courage is tested once again when she arrives at Thornfield Hall, where she has been hired by the brooding, proud Edward Rochester to care for his ward Adèle. Jane finds herself drawn to his troubled yet kind spirit. She falls in love. Hard.

But there is a terrifying secret inside the gloomy, forbidding Thornfield Hall. Is Rochester hiding from Jane? Will Jane be left heartbroken and exiled once again? [Goodreads.com]

***Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad**

Heart of Darkness, a novel by Joseph Conrad, was originally a three-part series in Blackwood's Magazine in 1899. It is a story within a story, following a character named Charlie Marlow, who recounts his adventure to a group of men onboard an anchored ship. The story told is of his early life as a ferry boat captain. Although his job was to transport ivory downriver, Charlie develops an interest in investing in an ivory procurement agent, Kurtz, who is employed by the government. Preceded by his reputation as a brilliant emissary of progress, Kurtz has now established himself as a god among the natives in "one of the darkest places on earth." Marlow suspects something else of Kurtz: he has gone mad. [Goodreads.com]

NOTE: While this is definitely a shorter text, it is extremely complex in both its writing style and its content. Please be thoughtful if you choose this novel.

***Moby Dick* by Herman Melville**

In part, *Moby Dick* is the story of an eerily compelling madman pursuing an unholy war against a creature as vast and dangerous and unknowable as the sea itself. But more than just a novel of adventure, more than an encyclopedia of whaling lore and legend, the book can be seen as part of its author's lifelong meditation on America. Written with wonderfully redemptive humor, *Moby Dick* is also a profound inquiry into character, faith, and the nature of perception. [Goodreads.com]

***The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne**

Hester Prynne, a young woman who has borne a child out of wedlock, is forced to wear the scarlet letter A on her dress as punishment for her sin. As both a badge of shame and a beautifully wrought human artifact, it reflects the many oppositions in the novel, such as those between order and transgression, civilization and wilderness, the town and the surrounding forest, adulthood and childhood. [Amazon.com]

***Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley**

Brave New World is a dystopian novel by English author Aldous Huxley, written in 1931 and published in 1932. Largely set in a futuristic World State, inhabited by genetically modified citizens and an intelligence-based social hierarchy, the novel anticipates huge scientific advancements in reproductive technology, sleep-learning, psychological manipulation and classical conditioning that are combined to make a dystopian society which is challenged by only a single individual: the story's protagonist. [Goodreads.com]

***The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain**

A nineteenth-century boy from a Mississippi River town recounts his adventures as he travels down the river with a runaway slave, encountering a family involved in a feud, two scoundrels pretending to be royalty, and Tom Sawyer's aunt who mistakes him for Tom. [Goodreads.com]

***Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson**

The story grew out of a map that led to imaginary treasure, devised during a holiday in Scotland by Stevenson and his nephew. The tale is told by an adventurous boy, Jim Hawkins, who gets hold of treasure map and sets off with an adult crew in search of the buried treasure. Among the crew, however, is the treacherous Long John Silver who is determined to keep the treasure for himself. Stevenson's first full-length work of fiction brought him immediate fame and continues to captivate readers of all ages. [Goodreads.com]

***The Awakening* by Kate Chopin**

When first published in 1899, *The Awakening* shocked readers with its honest treatment of female marital infidelity. Audiences accustomed to the pieties of late Victorian romantic fiction were taken aback by Chopin's daring portrayal of a woman trapped in a stifling marriage, who seeks and finds passionate physical love outside the confines of her domestic situation.

Aside from its unusually frank treatment of a then-controversial subject, the novel is widely admired today for its literary qualities. Edmund Wilson characterized it as a work "quite uninhibited and beautifully written, which anticipates D. H. Lawrence in its treatment of infidelity." Although the theme of marital infidelity no longer shocks, few novels have plumbed the psychology of a woman involved in an illicit relationship with the perception, artistry, and honesty that Kate Chopin brought to *The Awakening*. [Goodreads.com]

***Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen**

Since its immediate success in 1813, *Pride and Prejudice* has remained one of the most popular novels in the English language. Jane Austen called this brilliant work "her own darling child" and its vivacious heroine, Elizabeth Bennet, "as delightful a creature as ever appeared in print." The romantic clash between the opinionated Elizabeth and her proud beau, Mr. Darcy, is a splendid performance of civilized sparring. And Jane Austen's radiant wit sparkles as her characters dance a delicate quadrille of flirtation and intrigue, making this book the most superb comedy of manners of Regency England. [Goodreads.com]

***Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift**

Gulliver's Travels describes the four voyages of Lemuel Gulliver, a ship's surgeon. In Lilliput he discovers a world in miniature; towering over the people and their city, he is able to view their society from the viewpoint of a god. However, in Brobdingnag, a land of giants, tiny Gulliver himself comes under observation, exhibited as a curiosity at markets and fairs. In Laputa, a flying island, he encounters a society of speculators and projectors who have lost all grip on everyday reality; while they plan and calculate, their country lies in ruins. Gulliver's final voyage takes him to the land of the Houyhnhnms, gentle horses whom he quickly comes to admire - in contrast to the Yahoos, filthy bestial creatures who bear a disturbing resemblance to humans. [Goodreads.com]

***The Color Purple* by Alice Walker**

A powerful cultural touchstone of modern American literature, *The Color Purple* depicts the lives of African American women in early twentieth-century rural Georgia. Separated as girls, sisters Celie and Nettie sustain their loyalty to and hope in each other across time, distance and silence. Through a series of letters spanning twenty years, first from Celie to God, then the sisters to each other despite the unknown, the novel draws readers into its rich and memorable portrayals of Celie, Nettie, Shug Avery and Sofia and their experience. *The Color Purple* broke the silence around domestic and sexual abuse, narrating the lives of women through their pain and struggle, companionship and growth, resilience and bravery. Deeply compassionate and beautifully imagined, Alice Walker's epic carries readers on a spirit-affirming journey towards redemption and love. [Goodreads.com]



Summer Reading Written Assignment #1 – *Fahrenheit 451* Due Date: 8:30 a.m. on Friday, August 14, 2026

Assignment #1 – Create a Reading Journal as described below:

Keeping a journal as you read is one of the best ways to explore a piece of writing. With this process, you integrate reading and writing and find that you can interact with the work more fully. As you read, take in every detail, every description. Try to avoid hasty analysis because it can prevent you from understanding the meaning of the novel as a whole. Remember, to analyze anything fully you must have a complete understanding of it.

You will have **four (4) components** in your Reading Journal for *Fahrenheit 451*. Each section should be clearly labeled! The purpose of this journal is to assist you when we begin our discussion in the classroom.

- ☐ Section #1 - **Summary:** The first section will be a summary of the novel. This summary should be written in paragraph form and in complete sentences.
- ☐ Section #2 – **Characters:** The second section will be a list of the major and minor characters in the novel. With each character, include descriptions and purpose in the novel). Save room for notes from class discussions.
- ☐ Section #3 – **Setting:** The third section should list the setting(s) of the novel. This is usually a short section.
- ☐ Section #4 – **Significant Quotes:** The fourth section will be significant quotes from the novel. As you read, write down any quotes that stand out to you. List the speaker and the page number. You will need to have a **minimum of six (6) quotes**, but you may do as many as you wish. **Write two (2) quotes on one page; do not write on the back of your page.** Additionally, save room below each quote for our class discussions.



Summer Reading Written Assignment #2 – Choice Novel

Due Date: 8:30 a.m. on Friday, August 14, 2026

Assignment #2 – Create a Reading Journal as described below:

Keeping a journal as you read is one of the best ways to explore a piece of writing. With this process, you integrate reading and writing and find that you can interact with the work more fully. As you read, take in every detail, every description. Try to avoid hasty analysis because it can prevent you from understanding the meaning of the novel as a whole. Remember, to analyze anything fully you must have a complete understanding of it.

You will have **four (4) components** in your Reading Journal for your Choice Novel. Be sure to separate this assignment from *Fahrenheit 451*. Each section should be clearly labeled! The purpose of this journal is to assist you when we begin our discussion in the classroom.

- ☐ Section #1 - **Summary:** The first section will be a summary of the novel. This summary should be written in paragraph form and in complete sentences.
- ☐ Section #2 – **Characters:** The second section will be a list of the major and minor characters in the novel. With each character, include descriptions and purpose in the novel). Save room for notes from class discussions.
- ☐ Section #3 – **Setting:** The third section should list the setting(s) of the novel. This is usually a short section.
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