

Honors English One Summer Reading Assignment 2026

Instructors:

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Novel: *I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition)* ISBN #: 9780316327930

You must obtain a copy of *I Am Malala* on your own--thrift stores, online retailers, and bookstores are all great places to find a reasonably priced copy. **Digital copies are not acceptable**, you will need your own hard copy of the book to use in class (bring it to class with you starting with the first regular day of classes). As you read, annotate the text:

Annotation is a key component of close reading, as annotating with purpose slows down your reading to aid in comprehension and analysis. Annotations should be your own ideas showing your understanding and processing of the text as you read. You need to bring your book with annotations to class on the first day of regular classes (not Orientation Day). You can write/highlight directly in your book, use sticky notes, or create two column notes on paper. Typed notes are not acceptable--you need handwritten notes to fulfil this requirement. Annotations will be submitted to the teacher for grading on the first day of class.

Here are some suggestions for annotations:

- Identify components of the text that you understand & make notes on your interpretation
- Look for and note: diction, syntax, symbolism, imagery, themes, literary devices, plot, setting, etc.
- Summarize in the margins
 - Identify any confusing elements or questions you have while reading
- Look up any unfamiliar words & note a synonym or definition
- Make connections to art, music, current events, or other literature
- Note dates, important people & important places
- Draw arrows to show related ideas →

Powerful or interesting language or quotes

that you want to return to

Considerations: Part of being an honors student means you are a self-starter and can navigate assignments without explicit guidance. We are looking for quality and deep understanding in your annotations, so use your best judgment. It is important that you demonstrate a deep understanding of the novel and showcase your critical thinking abilities in your annotations.

Due Date: Your annotations are due on the first regular day of school (not Orientation Day). Bring your copy of the book to class starting on the first day of class as well--we will begin working on summer reading based assignments right away.

You will complete an in-class exam on the book that same week. We will have in class discussions and assignments based on the novel starting the first week of class, so it is essential that you have the summer reading and annotations finished **before the first regular day of class**. You must complete this assignment and pass the exam to continue in the Honors English program.

English Department Honors Course Expectations:

- Plagiarism, unauthorized generative AI usage, or other forms of cheating are grounds to be removed from the honors program and will disqualify you from future recommendations to honors coursework.
- You must maintain an average grade of 70% or higher to stay in the honors program. → Excessive absences or tardies will negatively impact your performance in the class and may disqualify you from the honors program. If you are absent, YOU are responsible for completing make up work in a timely manner.
- You are required to maintain a Reading/Writing AccuPlacer score of 240 or above to stay in the honors program for 9th/10th grade.

Please email us over the summer with questions or concerns.