2026-27 Honors English 2 and AP Seminar
Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to either AP Seminar or Honors English 2. This year's summer reading will help prepare you for the textual analysis you will tackle as advanced English students. Simply follow the steps below in order to complete this REQUIRED assignment.

1. Secure a copy of John Steinbeck's novella *Of Mice and Men*. Note: if you choose not to purchase your own copy, these books will be available for checkout in the main office at Senior High.
2. Using code **a2bkk7t6**, join the **Summer Reading AP Seminar / Honors English 2** page on Google Classroom. Check the "Classwork" tab right away in order to see a digital copy of this form and access its live links to the connection pieces (see below). We will occasionally post other nuggets, so please check the classroom stream at least a few times prior to the start of school.
3. **Read** all of the following prior to your return on the first day of school.
    a. *Of Mice and Men* in its entirety
    b. Connection essay: "The Joy of Less" by Pico Iyer
    c. Connection poem: "Nikki-Rosa" by Nikki Giovanni
    d. Connection article: "Even with a Harvard Pedigree, Caste Follows 'Like a Shadow'" by Philip Martin
    e. Connection narrative: "Little Woman from Lame Dear" by Cinnamon Spear
4. **Annotate:** Print and fully annotate all of the four connection pieces using the attached annotation guide. Printed copies of all articles will be available at the main office.
5. **First Day of School, Thursday 9/3**
    a. **Bring your annotations**
    b. **Content Test:** this will cover the novel as well as all connection pieces to serve as evidence of your reading comprehension.
    c. **Essay Test:** You will be asked to write a synthesis essay concerning theme. You will be permitted to use your annotations on the essay, so you may wish to consider paying special attention to theme in your notes.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Mrs. Watterson
AP Seminar Instructor
wattersonm@billingsschools.org

Ms. Ball
Honors English 2 Instructor
ballj@billingsschools.org

P.S. Please do not arrive to class on the first day of school unprepared or with this assignment incomplete. If you are committed to placement in an advanced course, you must also commit to completing the summer reading while on summer break, not after the school year begins. We as instructors have agreed that late work will not be permitted at any time during the course.

Summer 2026 Reading Assignment Annotation Guide

The following 4 steps are how you are expected to respond to one of the three connection reading choices. Remember that you must read and annotate all four connection pieces.

1. **Number** the paragraphs. (You do this as a reference point as you continue your annotation work.)
2. **Identify**, **underline**, and **label** the *claim/thesis.*
   ~The **thesis** is the main point of the essay, article, or text. It is usually one sentence that appears rather early on in a text.
3. **Circle** with a purpose; the purpose being the identification of any unfamiliar words, ideas, people, places, or any confusing passages of text. You are working to unpack any confusing [words]/passages.
4. **Summarize** the text in one sentence. Be sure to include the title of the piece and the author.
5. **Reflect** on thematic connections between all the texts. At the end of eac h connection piece, write 2-3 sentences concerning themes within each piece and connections between the readings.