Honors English 1 Summer Assignment 2026-2027



One expectation of Honors and AP-level English courses at Senior is the completion of summer assignments. Summer reading assignments allow students to begin the year with a common dialogue and are intended to provide students with the opportunity for critical thinking and analysis. **For your summer reading assignment, please read *Watership Down* by Richard Adams.**

You need a physical copy of the book, not a digital version. How you obtain a physical copy is up to you, but we encourage you to utilize our public library. There are also a limited number of copies available for checkout at Senior High in the main office before the last day of school. Make sure you read the entire, real book and not an abridged version or graphic novel version.

We also recommend you read and annotate your text using either sticky notes or a handwritten journal. We will discuss and continue with further assignments related to your book on the first day of the new school year, Thursday, September 3, 2026. Not the Freshmen First Day, Wednesday, September 2. **Come prepared with your physical copy of the book on the first day of school for all grade levels, Thursday, September 3, 2026.** You will complete a content-related assessment in class.

Annotation reminders:

- ★ do not just highlight; explain why you highlighted something
- ★ do not highlight everything
- ★ you need more than just questions (try to answer them/theorize)
- ★ identify words you don't know, but look it up or ask

Finally, you need a mixture of the Big Five when annotating:

- ★ questions
- ★ personal responses
- ★ sketches/symbolism
- ★ importance
- ★ summary

**Ultimately you are trying to identify and explain important connections and/or distinctions

Parents and guardians, please encourage your student to complete the summer assignment so that they are fully prepared to begin the fall semester. Thank you for taking a continuing interest in your student's education. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding the summer assignments or Honors English 1.

Sincerely,

Erica Hartman
Honors English Grade 9/College Writing
Billings Senior High School
English Department Chair
hartmane@billingsschools.org