2026 Summer Reading
English III



As a rising WHS 11th grade **English III** student, you are expected to complete assigned summer reading. In the first weeks of the fall semester, you will be asked to write about and discuss your selected book. In order to prepare for the discussion and other activities, we encourage you to truly engage with the text you are reading by marking the book and taking notes as you read.

Purpose of Summer Reading:

Because we want every student to have deep, meaningful experiences with books, each summer the Westlake High School English Department assigns summer reading with the belief that reading good literature provides enjoyment, develops insight into human behavior, promotes language development, fosters good writing, educates the mind and imagination, and allows readers to discover new ideas.

As a department, we agree with Mike Anderson's assertion that "when students have more choice about their learning, they can find both ways of learning that match their personal needs and engage with work more powerfully, building skills, and work habits that will serve them well as lifelong learners" (3). Therefore, this summer you will choose a book that matches your personal style and interests. Select a book that appeals to you and meets the criteria below.

Summer Reading Book Requirements:

- Either Fiction or Nonfiction
- At least 200+ pages long
- Written by an American author
- Finalist for/Winner of a National Book Award (see below for links and suggestions)
    - Printz Award (Young Adult Books)
    - National Book Foundation (National Book Award)
    - Alex Awards
    - New York Times Best Sellers (Young Adult or Adult)
    - The Spur Awards (Westerns)
    - The Hugo Awards (sci-fi & fantasy)

*****If you are considering leveling up to AP English Language and Composition, it is recommended that you choose Into the Wild by John Krakauer as that is their required summer reading book. Review the AP Lang English III summer reading handout for details.*****

Guiding Questions:

As you read, consider the following guiding questions to engage with and annotate your text.

1. What makes the story in this book compelling to read?
2. How do the people, places, or events in this book surprise you?
3. What ideas do you think the author is trying to convey through telling this story?
4. What do you notice about the way the author uses language to tell this story? (images, details, commentary, etc.)
5. What meanings lie within the stories of people, places, and events?

How Your Summer Reading will be Assessed:

During the first two weeks of school, you will be expected to discuss and write about your summer reading. Think about why you selected this book, what you learned from reading it, and why you would recommend this book to others. ***You are expected to have the book read by the beginning of the first full week of school.***

If you have any questions about the summer reading assignment, please contact a member of the English III team: Megan Olsen (molsen@eanesisd.net) or Trey Young (tyoung@eanesisd.net).