



## Summer Reading and Writing Assignments

Dear 10th graders,

This summer, your required reading for English class is John Steinbeck's classic California novel *Cannery Row*, which begins with one of the most famous lines in American literature: "Cannery Row in Monterey in California is a poem, a stink, a grating noise, a quality of light, a tone, a habit, a nostalgia, a dream." In *Cannery Row*, Steinbeck offers readers a portrait of the California of yesteryear and portrays a group of endearing misfits and drifters who might be down and out but refuse to let that stop them from having a good time. Make sure to annotate your book diligently (see details below) and bring it to class during the first week of school.

In addition, you are expected to read one additional novel from the lists below and to do some writing of your own. See details below.

**Required:** *Cannery Row* by John Steinbeck

Choose at least one from these 9th/10th Grade Lists:

- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie
- *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* by Julia Alvarez
- *The Catcher in the Rye* - J.D. Salinger
- *There, There* - Tommy Orange
- *Lone Women* - Victor LaValle
- *On The Road* - Jack Kerouac
- *The Color Purple* - Alice Walker
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* - Mark Twain, paired with *James* by Percival Everett

And, if you are looking for more, here's another list of suggestions:

- *Looking for Alaska* - John Green
- *Taking Hold* - Francisco Jimenez
- *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* - Benjamin Alire Saenz
- *My Year of Meats* - Ruth Ozeki
- *The Kite Runner* - Khaled Hosseini
- *The Sellout* - Paul Beatty
- *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* - Malinda Lo
- *The Underground Railroad* - Colson Whitehead
- *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* - Carson McCullers
- *All the Light We Cannot See* - Anthony Doerr

Engagement with the reading through writing:

1. You must bring your **annotated** copy of **both** summer reading texts to class the first week of school. Annotation involves writing marginal comments, questions, personal reactions, or even a rough sketch. This is not necessary on every page; generally speaking, we might say 1/3 of the pages should have some form of written engagement.
2. In addition, **write a review** (at least one page double-spaced) of your **choice reading book** (not *Cannery Row*). In your review, give your assessment of the book and address at least two of the following elements: characters, plot, setting, dialogue, descriptive writing. For instance, perhaps you found the characters compelling but the plot boring, or vice versa. Perhaps descriptions of the setting were beautiful, but the dialogue felt clunky. Perhaps everything was great. You must compose your review in one Google Doc without using any outside sources: you will be expected to show your work, including annotations that reflect your review. Support your opinions with at least **two quotations** from the book.

Wishing you a healthy and happy summer and looking forward to seeing you in the new school year,

Daniel Bush  
English Department Chair