



Summer Reading and Writing Assignments

Dear 9th graders,

This summer, your required text for English class is *The Time Machine*, H. G. Wells's classic novella of time travel and a foundational work of science fiction. In *The Time Machine*, H. G. Wells tells the story of a mysterious inventor—known only as "The Time Traveller"—who has developed a machine allowing its driver to "travel indifferently in any direction of Space and Time." The Time Traveller returns to the present day with the story of an extraordinary journey, but he has not, as one might expect, used his machine to return to the time of the dinosaurs or to make a fortune on the stock market; instead, he returns with an account of a harsh, violent future that has troubling implications for our own time. We will discuss these implications and more in August: make sure to bring the paperback version to class during the first week of school.

In addition, you need to choose one novel from the lists below, and you are expected to engage with the reading by doing some writing of your own. See below.

Required: *The Time Machine* by H. G. Wells

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

- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian* - Sherman Alexie
- *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* - Julia Alvarez
- *The Adventures of Amina al-Sirafi* - Shannon Chakraborty
- *The Catcher in the Rye* - J.D. Salinger
- *Pride & Prejudice (or any other novel)* - Jane Austen
- *Life of Pi* - Yann Martel
- *Lone Women* - Victor LaValle
- *On The Road* - Jack Kerouac
- *The Color Purple* - Alice Walker
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* - Mark Twain & *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

- *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 in the first week of school. Annotation means making notes in the margins of your book: these can be comments, questions, personal reactions, or even a rough sketch. This is not necessary on every page; in general, aim to add some substantive annotations to one out of every three pages or so.
2. In your own words, **write a review** (at least one page double-spaced) of your **choice reading book (not *The Time Machine*)**. In your review, give your assessment of the book and address at least two of the following elements: characters, plot, dialogue, style, setting, 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. Support your review with at least **two quotations** from the book. Your review must be grounded in your annotations; you will be asked to show your work.

We wish you a healthy and happy summer and look forward to seeing you in the new school year.

Daniel Bush
English Department Chair