2026-2027 Honors ELA Summer Reading Assignments

Dear Upcoming 9th Grade Honors English Students:

Before you begin the summer assignment for Honors Literature, it is important that you know the expectations for all honors English students at Jefferson High School. Please read the statements below before beginning your reading, and keep these expectations in mind as you complete the summer assignment.

Literature Skills

- *Student can effectively express ideas in writing and discussion.*
- *Student understands the conventions of writing and can apply them to written work.*
- *Student is a critical reader, providing thoughtful insights about texts read in class.*
- *Student is expected to read outside of class from the original texts.*

Motivation/Work Ethic

- *Student can work independently, completing tasks that are academically rigorous.*
- *Student is a problem-solver.*
- *Student is expected to turn in completed work on designated due dates.*
- *Student is expected to attend class each day. If there is an absence, the student will likely have to come early to school for additional instruction.*

Academic Integrity

- *Student work is expected to originate with the student.*
- *All reading is to be done from the original texts rather than abridged versions, summaries, or other text aids.*

This summer, you will need to choose **one** of the listed texts **AND the mandatory** text determined by the teacher to be prepared for Honors English. For this year, that text is Part 1 of *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. You will be held accountable for both of these readings starting on day ONE. It is your responsibility to have finished reading by that point, and **extensions will not be granted for either text. Registering late for the class, moving in district late, or waiving in does not excuse you from these tasks.**

The assessments for these novels are as follows:

1) Annotations for both books will be graded within the first two days of class.
    a) Watch this video for annotation tips!
    b) Use this rubric as a guide for your annotations.
2) Mandatory Text: In-class, timed essay upon completing both parts of *To Kill a Mockingbird* for a summative grade. Please consult this document for the list of essay topics and the essay rubric. You will choose one, and you should be annotating your book with these prompts in mind, as well as using the guidelines above.
3) Choice Text: Two project options will be assigned in week 1 for a summative grade.

Please recognize that it is perfectly acceptable to struggle with some of your reading; at this point, you only become a better reader by finding material that causes you to reach and

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stretch your abilities.

Doing independent research about the time period and the author of your book may be helpful to you. While you get to choose one of the novels from this list, please do not choose one that you have already read, has been read to you, or whose movie you have seen (even the cartoon). Additionally, children's illustrated classics and abridged versions are an insult to your Lexile level.

*Some of the books deal with mature topics or use language that you might find offensive, particularly *To Kill a Mockingbird,* which takes place during the time of segregation.

PLEASE NOTE:
This is the suggested reading calendar for *To Kill a Mockingbird.* This is not something you can put off until the last week of the summer, so get started as soon as possible. Plan ahead: give yourself enough time to change novels if you find one that you do not like. It doesn't matter if you start ten of them; just **have *To Kill a Mockingbird* and one choice novel from the list completed before the first day**. You are responsible for obtaining a personal copy of each novel so that you can write your annotations inside each text.

Remember, you are making a commitment as an honors student to complete your work independently and to the best of your ability. Honors-level performance is expected. Please plan accordingly with your time. If you lose this list, you can find it on the school website.

Feel free to email your teacher with questions. We look forward to meeting you!
Happy reading!
danielle.baird@jeffcityschools.org amy.levengood@jeffcityschools.org

Choices (**choose 1**):

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou
The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon
The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd
The Heart is a Lonely Hunter by Carson McCullers
The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith
The Prince and the Pauper by Mark Twain
We Have Always Lived in the Castle by Shirley Jackson
Lord of the Flies by William Golding
The Iliad by Homer
The Other Wes Moore by Wes Moore