

English I (9th grade)

Ms. Ham

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Summer Reading 2026 AND Required texts for all 2026-27 freshman English classes

SUMMER READING

English I—Read **ONE** novel: S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders*

Honors English I—Read **TWO** novels: S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders* and choose **one** of the following novels in its original unabridged form:

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

The Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom, Elizabeth Sherrill, John Sherrill

The Swiss Family Robinson by Johann Wyss

Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson

As you read the assigned summer reading novel(s), you must complete the following assignment. You will need your own purchased copy of the novel, a pen, and a set of Post-It notes to complete the required annotations within the text of the novel. The pen is for underlining passages in the book (or you may use a highlighter for this, if you prefer), and the Post-It notes are for making explanatory **annotation notes** on the underlined passages.

NOTE: Annotations are written notes about the text of a novel (see below for specific instructions). The purpose of annotating a novel is to **interact with the text WHILE READING IT**. As you recognize important examples of literary elements within a work, you underline or highlight the example and write a Post-It note explaining what you think the passage means or why the passage is important. You then stick the Post-It note to the page where you've marked the text. Ultimately, when you review the work later on, you can easily find the significant portions of the story and read the explanations on the Post-It notes.

On the first day of school, you will turn in your copy of the annotated novel(s). Please be sure **your name is written inside the cover of each novel**, and also that you **place a sticky note with your name on it on the OUTSIDE cover of each novel**. Honors students should have a rubber band around their two novels. Thoroughly annotate each novel in the following manner:

1. Underline a portion of the text that demonstrates the point of view (first person, third person limited, or third person omniscient—look these up if you’re unsure of what they mean), and write a Post-It note explaining **WHY you think the author chose to write the story in that point of view**. Write a circled number **1** on the Post-It note and attach it to the page where you underlined the text.
2. Underline a portion of text that you believe demonstrates something significant in the opening scene of the novel. Write a Post-It note explaining why you think the passage is significant. Write a circled number **2** on the Post-It note and attach it to the page where you underlined the text.
3. Underline a portion of text that you believe demonstrates something significant in the closing scene of the novel. Write a Post-It note explaining why you think the passage is significant. Write a circled number **3** on the Post-It note and attach it to the page where you underlined the text.
4. Underline one memorable/important quotation . This cannot be the same thing you used for annotation #2 or #3. The term “quotation” simply means a passage of text; it can be plot narration or a character’s spoken words. The quotation should reveal an important personality trait of a character or indicate a theme (message or lesson the story teaches). Write a Post-It note explaining what makes the quotation significant or memorable. Write a circled number **4** on the Post-It note and attach it to the page where you underlined the text.
5. Underline a portion of text that you believe demonstrates the meaning of one important symbol in the story. A symbol is a person, place, or object that represents an idea outside of itself (for example, a *cross* represents Christianity). Write a Post-It note about the symbol’s significance or meaning. Write a circled number **5** on the Post-It note and attach it to the page where you underlined the text.

In the end, you should have **a total of five** thorough Post-It note annotations. **Please make sure that your Post-It notes are sticking out from the pages of the book(s).**

REQUIRED TEXTS FOR FRESHMAN ENGLISH 2026-27

BEFORE SCHOOL BEGINS IN AUGUST, please purchase a **100-page marbled composition notebook** for class assignments and a **copy of the following texts** for your freshman English class:

Much Ado About Nothing

https://www.amazon.com/About-Nothing-Dover-Thrift-Editions/dp/0486282724/ref=mp_s_a_1_5?crid=248T2GA21ALAA&keywords=much+ado+about+nothing+shakespeare&qid=1677096362&srefix=much+ado+%2Caps%2C94&sr=8-5

Julius Caesar

https://www.amazon.com/William-Shakespeares-Julius-Annotations-Supplements/dp/B0GQ3LP86M/ref=sr_1_2?crid=1CODQCP8A3N47&dib=eyJ2IjojMSJ9.MvyyuLaXvOAqJSW6dpTRG8YxM_m-g418kBnjrDH1Yaf2c6-Wm2o3cv3SK4LB7tJUdik7iOzjgHrFDhKOY9Xboz-G4MkCUEen8s8m25SKY1e5DXPk3UOMBff8tu-gEifpuhORwWmF_ptkUJcraiSoaB78kXEoleEF-e97xaWaXyz_GZm6TwSei86J68VSfnoyaYsNSta5KYaDlwwEro3NdeHQVodA6y9q_6PG7w18tly0.NbKENOLVu3IKM1ip6dD_a2EWyG-xAHIAxdGcJYweDg4&dib_tag=se&keywords=julius+caesar+annotations&qid=1773687506&srefix=julius+caesar+annot%2Caps%2C172&sr=8-2

Animal Farm

https://www.amazon.com/Animal-Farm-George-Orwell/dp/0451526341/ref=mp_s_a_1_1?crid=RL5EDFSB13EM&keywords=animal+farm+george+orwell&qid=1677096467&srefix=animal+farm%2Caps%2C103&sr=8-1

A Raisin in the Sun

https://www.amazon.com/Raisin-Sun-Lorraine-Hansberry/dp/0679755330/ref=mp_s_a_1_1?crid=1W34PC1UL7CC0&keywords=a+raisin+in+the+sun+by+lorraine+hansberry&qid=1677096575&srefix=a+rai%2Caps%2C102&sr=8-1

To Kill a Mockingbird

https://www.amazon.com/Kill-Mockingbird-Harper-Lee/dp/0060935464/ref=mp_s_a_1_1?crid=1DDAET67YPJ2B&keywords=to+kill+a+mockingbird+book+paperback+harper+lee&qid=1677165183&srefix=to+kill%2Caps%2C88&sr=8-1

A Long Walk to Water

https://www.amazon.com/Long-Walk-Water-Based-Story/dp/0547577311/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3ANNJMNLE5M2G&dib=eyJ2IjojMSJ9.8ItOdZ7CkiGCA4_mMGdbAEIXFG3hz9wWVUPExOBznrc6SXNBz2vhA3N0UfG6FjcGGNCrhS8uZfucwYDZ8-PKU18APMEIT1otCKGKRU_upPfk_meyWIONXkfTV9Os7yIDXxarqlf9duhGEB26r0xk9l05wjnW_43kO6JthNrIz4_ioBxsyPLFCmNdoWuPXkcWPOZWILuWBUPybWzrWYrwlPCGFkFXIJnoaCrFNvEyqpg.sRG3oXOzTiqvyvDwOLiK9Nbyaffr5EW4JCJi4vgEfCc&dib_tag=se&keywords=long+walk+to+water&qid=1715011477&srefix=long+walk+to+water%2Caps%2C111&sr=8-1

It is best practice to have all of these books purchased at the beginning of the school year. Failing to have the book in your possession when we start that unit in class will result in a write up for unpreparedness, so please be proactive in this. You may purchase a previously used copy of each book if available, but please be sure that it is the same version, and that it hasn't been marked up by someone else as we will be annotating in class.