

SHS English Department: 2026 – 2027 Summer Reading

To access summer reading titles, please visit:

- [Somers Public Library](#)
- The [Sora](#) library collection for e-books and audiobooks
 - Be sure to add the Westchester Library System as a library to access additional titles (you will need your Somers library card number to borrow titles)

GRADE 9

[English 9 \(Embedded Honors\)](#) Click the link for reviews and information on texts.

All English 9 students must read **TWO books** over the summer. One book is required, and the other is a choice book. We have provided a list of books you might like. *You are strongly encouraged to take notes on the books as you will be working with these books in the first weeks of 9th grade.*

#1 Every student **MUST READ**:

The Five People You Meet in Heaven (Albom)

#2 Plus **one other book** of your choosing. NOTE: You may NOT read/re-read *The Outsiders* from 8th grade. Please consider one of these recommendations for your choice book:

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian (Alexie)

The Devil at My Heels (Zamperini)

Chains (Halse Anderson)

I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter (Sanchez)

White Fang (London)

All the Light We Cannot See (Doerr)

The Book Thief (Zusak)

Ender's Game (Card)

To Kill a Mockingbird (Lee)

Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption (Hillenbrand)

[Humanities 9 \(Embedded Honors\)](#) Click the link for reviews and information on texts.

All English 9 students must read **TWO books** over the summer. One book is required, and the other is a choice book. We have provided a list of books you might like. *You are strongly encouraged to take notes on the books as you will be working with these books in the first weeks of 9th grade.*

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[Special Class English 9](#) – Click the link for reviews and information on the text.

Students must read *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* (Albom)

GRADE 10

[English 10 \(Embedded Honors\)](#) Click the link for reviews and information on texts.

Students *must read*:

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl by (Anne Frank)

And
ONE book from the list below.

Teacher Recommendations:

This Is My Brain in Love (Gregorio)

Jackpot (Stone)

All American Boys (Reynolds, Kiely)

One of Us is Lying (McManus)

Free Lunch (Rex Ogle)

An Invisible Thread: The True Story of an 11-Year-Old Panhandler, a Busy Sales Executive, and an Unlikely Meeting with Destiny (Schroff)

Student Recommendations:

Dear Martin (Stone)

The Perks of Being a Wallflower (Chbosky)

All American Muslim Girl (Courtney)

45 Pounds (More or Less) (Barson)

Dear Evan Hansen (Emmich)

Clap When You Land (Acevedo)

1984 (Orwell)

Optional: If you enjoyed reading your two choices from the above lists, consider engaging in this additional non-fiction text that highlights this year's course themes with real-life examples:

David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants (Gladwell)

[Special Class English 10](#) Click the link for reviews and information on texts.

Students must read *The Giver* (Lowry)

[Humanities 10 \(Embedded Honors\)](#) Click the link for reviews and information on texts.

Students must read **TWO** books total that capture the themes of the tenth-grade Humanities curriculum:

All American Boys (Reynolds, Kiely)

The Hate U Give (Thomas)

All American Muslim Girl (Courtney)

1984 (Orwell)

The Good Earth (Buck)

The Fountain of Silence (Sepetys)

The Nightingale (Hannah)

Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity (Boo)

All Quiet on the Western Front (Remarque)

Beyond That, the Sea (Spence-Ash)

Internment (Ahmed)

Four Red Sweaters: Powerful True Stories of Women and the Holocaust (Adlington)

The Blood Years (Arnold)

Grade 11

English 11R Click the link for reviews and information on texts.

Students are encouraged to read two of the following books, but must read at least ***one***:

Brownstone (Samuel Teer)

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time (Mark Haddon)

Twisted (Laurie Halse Anderson)

Chronically Dolores (Maya Van Wagenen)

The Beekeeper of Aleppo (Christy Lefteri)

Special Class English 11:Click the link for reviews and information on texts.

Students must read ***one*** of the following books:

Monster (Myers)

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time (Haddon)

Twisted (Anderson)

IB English Year 1 (11th grade) Click the link for reviews and information on texts.

Students must read/view ***two*** texts over the summer: one required documentary and one choice book from the list below.

#1 (Required)

Blackfish [documentary] (directed by Gabriela Cowperthwaite) - you can view the film on Swank [HERE](#), on Amazon Prime, or from your local library. **It is very important to take notes about the film (thoughts on themes and film features like lighting, reenactments, or music, for example) as you will be working with it in school as a potential source for upcoming IB English assessment(s).**

#2 (Choose one)

The Glass Castle (Walls) [memoir/autobiography] NOTE: Please do not watch the film only. They are not usually true to the text.

This Book Betrays My Brother (Molope) [realistic fiction]

Solito (Zamora) [memoir/autobiography] NOTE: This book contains many Spanish words. If you do not know Spanish, you may want to read it digitally, so you can look up translations more easily.

American Street (Zoboi) [realistic fiction]

The Laramie Project and The Laramie Project Ten Years later (Kaufman) [nonfiction/drama]

NOTE: You are highly encouraged to take notes about the book as you will be working with it in the first weeks of school and, potentially, for future IB assessments.)

English 11 AP Language and Composition Click the link for reviews and information on texts.

Students should read the following ***two*** texts:

Lord of the Flies (Golding) **AND** *Outliers* (Gladwell)

IB Literature and Performance

Students must read the following texts over the summer:

White Nights (Fyodor Dostoevsky) -- Recommended translation: Constance Garnett

The Metamorphosis (Franz Kafka) -- Recommended translation: Susan Bernofsky

NOTE: As you read these works, think about how certain characters, themes, conflicts, images, or ideas might be dramatized on stage. We will be working with these texts during the first weeks of school and use them as a basis for your IB Transformation assessment.

Alternative High School 11/12 – Select **ONE** book from any grade-level reading list that you have not previously read. The book should be developmentally appropriate and aligned with your interests.

Grade 12

English 12: Search for Self Click the link for reviews and information on texts.

Students must read *The Alchemist* (Coelho) AND pick **one** of the following:

Frankly in Love (Yoon)
I am the Messenger (Zusak)
Nineteen Minutes (Picoult)
The Things They Carried (O'Brien)
Room (Donoghue)
Boy 21 (Quick)

Special Class English 12: Click the link for reviews and information on texts.

Students must read **one** of the following books:

I am the Messenger (Zusak)
The Things They Carried (O'Brien)
Boy 21 (Quick)

IB English HL Year 2 (12th grade) Click the link for reviews and information on texts.

All students must read *Purple Hibiscus* (Adichie) NOTE: *You are strongly encouraged to take notes (themes, thoughts, connections, and text feature analysis) on the books as you will be working with these books in the first weeks of the course.*

IB Literature and Performance

Students must read the following texts over the summer:

White Nights (Fyodor Dostoevsky) -- Recommended translation: Constance Garnett
The Metamorphosis (Franz Kafka) -- Recommended translation: Susan Bernofsky

NOTE: As you read these works, think about how certain characters, themes, conflicts, images, or ideas might be dramatized on stage. We will be working with these texts during the first weeks of school and use them as a basis for your IB Transformation assessment.

12 AP English Literature and Composition Click the link for reviews and information on texts.

Students must read at least TWO of the following texts:

The Power (Naomi Alderman)
Homegoing (Yaa Gyasi)

Their Eyes Were Watching God (Zora Neale Hurston)

A Prayer for Owen Meany (John Irving)

Never Let Me Go (Kazuo Ishiguro)

Pachinko (Min Jin Lee)

The Road (Cormac McCarthy)

Lonesome Dove (Larry McMurtry)

Weather (Jenny Offill)

Disappearing Earth (Julia Phillips)

The Grapes of Wrath (John Steinbeck)

The Nickel Boys (Colson Whitehead)

Alternative High School 11/12 – Choose **ONE** book from any grade level list.