

Slidell High School – Summer Reading/Holiday Reading
English I Honors ‘26-’27

Directions: Read and annotate the text. It is recommended to annotate on character, plot, and theme development. Reading and annotations are due no later than Friday, August 21, 2026 for Semester A/ January 7, 2027 for Semester B. (Bring your annotated book to class the first full day of school!)

Novel Choices:

<i>The Contender</i> Fiction Robert Lipsyte	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> Fiction Harper Lee	<i>Little Women</i> Coming-of-Age/Fiction Louisa May Alcott	<i>Wuthering Heights</i> Fiction/Gothic Romance Emily Bronte
Alfred Brooks is scared. He's a high school dropout and his grocery store job is leading nowhere. His best friend is sinking further and further into drug addiction. Some street kids are after him for something he didn't even do. So Alfred begins going to Donatelli's Gym, a boxing club in Harlem that has trained champions. There he learns it's the effort, not the win, that makes the man -- that last desperate struggle to get back on your feet when you thought you were down for the count.	In <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>, author Harper Lee uses memorable characters to explore civil rights and racism in the segregated Southern United States of the 1930s. Told through the eyes of Scout Finch, you learn about her father Atticus Finch, an attorney who hopelessly strives to prove the innocence of a black man unjustly accused of a crime; and about Boo Radley, a mysterious neighbor who saves Scout and her brother Jem from being killed.	This novel follows the lives of four sisters – Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy March – detailing their passage from childhood to womanhood, and is loosely based on the author and her three sisters. <i>Little Women</i> was an immediate commercial and critical success. It is a fiction novel for girls that veered from the normal writings for children, especially girls, at the time. The novel had three major themes: “domesticity, work, and true love, all of them interdependent and each necessary to the achievement of its heroine’s individual identity.” <i>Little Women</i> itself “has been read as a romance or as a quest, or both. It has been read as a family drama that validates virtue over wealth.” <i>Little Women</i> has been read “as a means of escaping that life by women who knew its gender constraints only too well.” Alcott “combines many conventions of the sentimental novel with crucial ingredients of Romantic children’s fiction, creating a new form of which <i>Little Women</i> is a unique model.” Elbert argued that within <i>Little Women</i> can be found the first vision of the “American Girl” and that her multiple aspects are embodied in the differing March sisters.	Wuthering Heights is a wild, passionate story of the intense love between Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff, a foundling adopted by Catherine's father. After Mr. Earnshaw's death, Heathcliff is bullied and humiliated by Catherine's brother Hindley and wrongly believing that his love for Catherine is not reciprocated, leaves Wuthering Heights, only to return years later as a wealthy and polished man. He proceeds to exact a terrible revenge for his former miseries. The action of the story is chaotic and unremittingly violent, but the accomplished handling of a complex structure, the evocative descriptions of the lonely moorland setting and the poetic grandeur of vision combine to make this unique novel a masterpiece of English literature.

★ Annotations will be collected on August 21st (Semester A) and January 7th(Semester B). Be sure to hold on to your annotations! ★ Assignments will be accepted early, but not late. *Annotations may be on sticky notes in your book or you may attach reflections to looseleaf as you read.

How-to-Annotate Bookmark Before Reading	<i>Annotation Instructions and Rubric</i>
➤ Examine the front and back covers ➤ Read the title & any subtitles ➤ Examine illustrations ➤ Examine the print (bold, italic) ➤ Examine the way the text is set up (i.e. Book, Short Story, Dialogue, Diary, Article, Etc.)	Print this page and cut out the attached bookmark. Use it to help you read for important information. Obviously, annotation is as personal as reading, and there are MANY ways to annotate a book. This system is a suggestion. For example, some people prefer to use colors to differentiate elements, and some prefer to use "Post Its."
During Reading: ➤ Mark in the text: Characters (who), Setting (when/where), ➤ Vocabulary (squiggly line) ➤ Important ideas (straight line) ➤ Write in the margins:	100 - 90 Points There should be markings and written commentary throughout the book including: · Recognition of plot points · Commentary on character development · Commentary on theme development · Notation of motifs · Notation of literary devices There will be something significant in every chapter.
Summarize/ Make Predictions Formulate opinions/Make Connection /Ask Questions/Analyze Author's Craft/ Reflect – React – Comment on Patterns	89 - 80 Points There should be markings and commentary throughout most of the book including: · Recognition of plot points · Commentary on character development · Commentary on theme development · Notation of literary devices There will be something noted in nearly every chapter.
After Reading: ➤ Re-read annotations ➤ Re-read introduction and conclusion ➤ Examine Patterns and Repetitions/ Examine the title	79 – 70 Points There should be markings and commentary throughout the book though some sections may be marked less than others. Highlights and commentary should still show a basic understanding of the plot and characters.
➤ Draw Conclusions – Make Connections	69 – 0 Points Annotation reflects that reading was incomplete or there was a lack of understanding. Entire sections may have been skipped or random/insignificant material has been highlighted.

