



12th Grade English Summer Reading

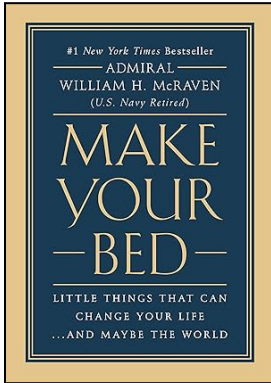
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College Essay Assignment

2026

Upper School Community Summer Read

Required of All Students



Title: *Make Your Bed: Little Things That Can Change Your Life... and Maybe the World*

Author: Admiral William H. McRaven

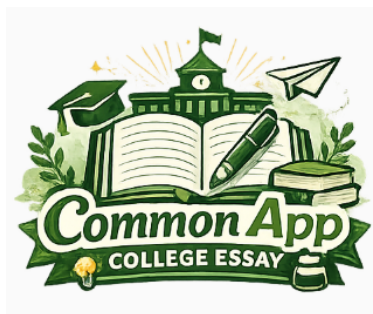
ISBN: 978-1455570249

Please note that the required reading is Admiral McRaven's book *Make Your Bed*, not the original speech or the companion piece, *Make Your Bed: A Daily Journal*.

Reading Deadline: Thursday, August 6, 2026

College Essay Assignment

12th Grade Requirement



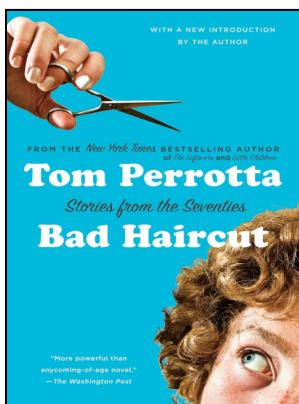
Students should submit a copy of their Common App college essay to the Class of 2027 Google Classroom account by **Friday, August 7, 2026.**

Click [HERE](#) for the essay prompts and tips on how to get started.

Please note that seniors are encouraged to explore college supplemental essay prompts via college admissions websites. Students will work directly with the College Counselor in August to create their individual Common App account.

English Literature and Composition

Required of all Non-AP Students



Title: *Bad Haircut: Stories from the Seventies*

Author: Tom Perrotta

ISBN: 978-1250010032

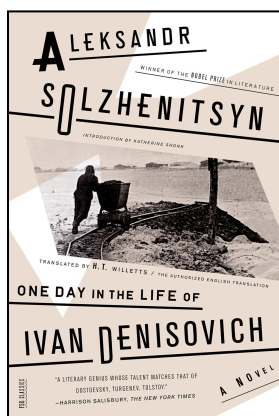
Students will take a Reading Check Test on Monday, August 10, 2026.

There are no retakes for this assessment.

The test will consist entirely of short-answer responses (3–5 sentences each) in which you identify and explain the significance of various items, places, people, quotes, etc. from the novel.

AP English Literature and Composition

Required of all AP Students



Title: *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*

Author: Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

ISBN: 978-0374534684

Students must use ONLY the H.T. Willetts translation associated with this ISBN.

Students will take an assessment on the novel during the first week of school.

There are no retakes for this assessment.

Students are encouraged to keep careful track of the characters and their roles in the story. Because the book is relatively short, students should plan to read it sometime in July so the details remain fresh in their minds.

Click [HERE](#) a summary of the books and additional information about the assessments.