

## Summer Reading 2026

## English 1 Accelerated (Course #121)

Students will read two (2) books over the summer. You should read the required book and one (1) book from the suggested list.

**Required book:** *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

### **Suggested books:**

| <b><u>Author</u></b> | <b><u>Title</u></b>                                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Adeyemi              | Children of Blood and Bone                                              |
| Bacigalupi           | Ship Breaker                                                            |
| Bagdasarian          | Forgotten Fire                                                          |
| Gaines               | A Lesson Before Dying                                                   |
| Markandaya           | Nectar in a Sieve                                                       |
| Smith, B.            | A Tree Grows in Brooklyn                                                |
| Stiefvater           | The Scorpio Races                                                       |
| Wein                 | Code Name Verity <b>OR</b> Rose under Fire                              |
| Wolf, A.             | The Watch that Ends the Night: Voices from the Titanic (novel-in-verse) |
| Yang and Pham        | Lunar New Year Love Story (graphic novel)                               |
| Zafon                | The Shadow of the Wind                                                  |

**For each book, you will choose an activity to complete. Below are three activities to choose from: *Five Journal Responses, Create a PPT, or a Reading Response Web.***

Please review each activity and choose one activity to complete for To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee and choose one activity to complete for the book you choose from the suggested list. (**Activities will be collected or emailed to the teacher the first week of school.**)

Students will take an in class assessment on *To Kill a Mockingbird* at the beginning of the school year. That assessment will be combined with activities that the student completes over the summer for a test grade.

All work submitted must be entirely your own—do not use work from other students, AI tools, or any other sources. We look forward to seeing what you've learned and how your own thinking has developed through these activities!

### **Activity #1-Five (5) Journal Responses**

(Type in a Word or Google document or clearly write in a notebook)

**Directions:** Date & label each response.

Respond to the questions below to review the novel.

Write/type **150-200 words** for EACH response.

#### **Journal #1:**

Describe the characters introduced and setting (time and place) of the novel.

Who is in the novel? Where does it take place? How are the characters related? Are you familiar with the setting?

#### **Journal #2:**

What conflict or problem is the main character (or main characters) facing in the novel?

*Predict* how you think this problem may be dealt with by the main character(s) or others in the novel.

How would you deal with the problem?

### **Journal #3:**

What do you think or feel about the situation that the main character (or main characters) is/are going through?  
What have you seen or read that relates to the problem?  
How does the problem relate to you or teens today?

### **Journal #4:**

**After reading the book**, reflect upon and explain how one of the main characters grows/changes from the beginning of the novel to the end of the novel?

### **Journal #5:**

What is the overall message the author is trying to express to young adults?

### **Activity #2 Create a PowerPoint**

(May be completed in Google Slides or in PowerPoint)

Create your own original six-slide PowerPoint or Google Slideshow to review and share the novel. Use the guidelines below:

#### **Slide guidelines:**

**Slide 1:** Title and author of book (Include an image.)

**Slide 2:** Main Character – Write the main character's name AND write at least 100 words to describe the character.

**Slide 3:** Setting – Write where and when story takes place (Include an image.)

**Slide 4:** The Conflict – Write 150 or more words about the problem/conflict the main character faces AND how the character deals with this conflict.

**Slide 5:** The Theme – What is one theme (the overall or underlying message) of the novel? What does the author wants us to know or realize by writing about this theme? (150 words)

**Slide 6:** Summary & Opinion – Give a summary of the story *AND* your opinion of the story. (Write 150 or more words.)

### **Activity #3 Design a Reading Response Web**

(You may use poster board, index cards, etc. or create it in a Word or Google document or whatever format you are creative in). **Create, design, or draw a Reading Response Web to review and respond to the novel.**

**(See examples below. These examples cannot be edited-you should just use them as guides.)**

**This activity should have the following:**

1. **Title:** Title of book AND author's name
2. **Picture:** A drawing or image of the book
3. **Main character:** Name of main character WITH 3 words to describe him/her.
4. **Setting:** Where is the setting of the story located? – Include an image or drawing.
5. **Summary:** Type or write a summary of the problem in the novel and how it is resolved. (Write 150 words.)
6. **Favorite Event:** Explain your favorite event of the story and why it is your favorite. (Write 100 words.)
7. **Surprise Event:** Explain one thing/event that surprised you in the novel and why you are surprised by it. (Write 100 words.)
8. **Recommendation:** Explain why or why not you would recommend this book. (Write 100 words.)

9. Include your Name.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reading Response Web**

Author's Message

Setting (Place and Time)

Main Character

Problem and Action

Character Traits and Story Information

Solution/Resolution

Summarize the important events in the story

Rate this book: ☆☆☆☆☆

**MY READING RESPONSE WEB**

By \_\_\_\_\_

MAIN IDEA

PLOT

BLURB

CHARACTER

BOOK

PROBLEM

SETTING

SOLUTION

PERSONAL RESPONSE

QUICKTAKES

Excerpt: \_\_\_\_\_

Connection: \_\_\_\_\_

Rating: I would give this book \_\_\_\_\_ stars.

Impression: Something that surprised me about the story was: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation: I would recommend this book to \_\_\_\_\_ because: \_\_\_\_\_

Vocabulary: A word I learned from the story is \_\_\_\_\_.

Questions? Email Ms. Kathy Webber- [kwebber@unioncatholic.org](mailto:kwebber@unioncatholic.org).

Happy Reading!

