

Summer Reading 2026-2027 for 9th Grade Honors and On-Level

AI Policy: The expectation of the English Department at GFCS is that students will complete the summer reading assignment(s) **without** the assistance of ChatGPT or other generative AI platforms.

1. Read [*Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger](#) over the summer and come prepared to take a quiz over the book for our first week of school.

****You will be permitted to use original handwritten notes on one 3 x 5 note card. You may use both sides. (Under no circumstances will typed, printed, or reproduced notes be allowed).**

2. As you read this novel, **highlight and annotate (make marginal notes)** along the way. **You will turn in your book before the quiz, and I will grade your annotations.** Look for symbolism, characterization, motifs (recurring symbols, themes, colors, for example), interesting words or ideas, bullet points of key events at the end of each chapter...anything! Consider annotating the following elements as you read:

- **The World According to Reuben (and/or Swede):** Trace Reuben's epiphanies, his new understanding, his awakening, his wisdom. In nearly every chapter Reuben gains a little more insight into life (sometimes with the help of his very precocious sister). Hint: pay attention to the last paragraphs of the chapters. This is often (but not always) where he shares a little jewel that sounds very "Proverb-like." Example: "Pride is the rope God allows us all."
- **Look for foreshadowing.** Now that you know the story, you will probably look back and find hints that were dropped along the way. Maybe you caught them the first time you read! Good writers hardly ever drop bombshells out of the blue; they usually prepare the reader very gently, very subtly. Example: "As we walked toward home, toward lighted windows, shouldn't I have sensed the Lands adrift, pushed off course, gone wayward?" This question signals to the reader that something unfortunate will happen to the Lands.
- **Mark anything you don't understand.** If you don't "get it," chances are that others don't "get it" either! At the very least, you'll have something to get a discussion started.

3. Of course, as you read, consider annotating the following:
 - Significant points
 - New characters
 - A shift/change of any kind in a character or circumstance
 - Opportunities to predict upcoming events
 - Personal connections.
4. As we launch into our first quarter, we will refer to this wonderful novel as inspiration for writing.

I am so very looking forward to meeting you and pray God blesses your summer and your transition into high school this coming fall! What a wonderful adventure we have ahead of us!