

Ocean Township High School - Summer Reading 2026

For Students Entering English Classes in Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Reading enriches our lives and helps each reader understand the wide range of people, places, ideas, and experiences in our world.

This summer, all students entering English classes in grades 9-12 will read a book of their choice. Students taking Honors or AP English classes will complete an additional, course-specific assignment. We encourage you to choose a book, genre, or author which you are excited about, and to get lost in a good book (fiction or nonfiction). All students should be prepared to discuss their summer reading book at the beginning of the school year.

While choosing and reading a book are required, answering one of the reader response questions below is **extra credit**. Read your book and answer **one** of the reader response questions below and you will earn extra credit towards the first marking period of your English course. The extra credit assignment is due on the first day of class. All work submitted for extra credit must be completed in accordance with the OTHS policy on plagiarism outlined in the Academic Integrity section of the student handbook (ie. no AI-generated assignments).

Extra Credit: Reader Response Question

Write a **three-paragraph** essay in response to **one** of the following questions:

Note: Your essay should contain textual evidence as support for your argument or position.

- Describe new insights or understandings you have after reading the book. What do you know now about the topic or human nature as a result of reading this book? How will these insights change the way you view the world around you?
- Does the main character grow over the course of the book or remain stagnant? How does this connect to the overall theme, purpose, or message of the book?
- What quote stands out to you in the book? Why? What is the quote's impact? How does it connect to either plot or character development?

Resources for Accessing Books Online:

[OTHS Library - Mackin Via App for eBooks](#)

[Libby eBook App - Available through the Monmouth County Library](#)

****Choose your own book or a book from the suggestions below****

Book Suggestions:

Entering 9th Grade

The Last Days of Summer by Steve Kluger

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

The Other Wes Moore: One Name Two Fates by Wes Moore

Hold Tight, Don't Let Go by Laura Rose Wagner

Entering 10th Grade

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

Close to Shore: A True Story of Terror in An Age of Innocence by Michael Capuzzo

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson

Belzhar by Meg Wolitzer

Entering 11th Grade

Monster by Walter Dean Meyers

Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell

Ready Player One by Ernest Cline

Uglies by Scott Westerfeld

Entering 12th Grade

The Long Walk by Richard Bachman/Stephen King

The Pact by Sampson Davis

1000 Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini

Water for Elephants: A Novel by Sara Gruen

If you have any questions about the summer reading assignment, please contact the English department Supervisor, Mr. Schwartz - ischwartz@oceanschools.org