

English 10H

Summer Reading 2026

Welcome to English 10H! I am looking forward to meeting you all in September!

The 10th grade curriculum is a study of the individual in society. The purpose of this course is to investigate the ethical dilemmas inherent in the human condition. Through the literature presented, students will be challenged to evaluate the decisions of individuals in the face of life's trials, including the struggle for power, the influence of evil, and the trappings of ideology – decisions that may result in moral debasement and even violence, or in personal epiphany, forgiveness, and redemption.

These human events, examined within the context of familial and community relationships and their interpersonal dynamics, constitute the central themes in the core reading selections.

For this year's summer assignment, please read Daphne du Maurier's novel, *Rebecca* **AND** an independent reading book of your choice (**no graphic novels**). The independent reading book must be appropriate to the grade level.

Task for *Rebecca*:

The themes and characters in this novel become the basis for much of what we will do for the first quarter, so be sure to read carefully and take notes along the way. As you read, consider the themes, structure, narration, conflicts, and character dynamics in the novel.

Reflect on the following quotation:

“So may the outward shows be least themselves;/The world is still deceived with ornament.”

In a well-organized and carefully constructed essay of no more than four pages in length, explain how the aforementioned quotation connects to the novel *Rebecca* using specific examples from the text. Your response should include an introduction, body paragraphs with textual evidence (quotations) and analysis, and a conclusion. Make sure to avoid plot summary and to include ONE quotation per body paragraph with a thoughtful analysis of each quotation.

Your essay should follow proper MLA format (Times New Roman, size 12 font, double-spaced, and appropriate parenthetical citations). Your work should be original and any instances of plagiarism will result in all parties receiving a 0 for the assignment. **No outside sources should be consulted for this assignment.**

Once class schedules are finalized, I will send out a code for Google Classroom and for Turnitin. The final essay should be submitted through Google Classroom AND Turnitin prior to the first day of school.

Task for Independent Reading Book:

Read and take notes on your independent reading book. I will assign the independent reading project when we return to school in September.

Happy Reading!

