

English 9 Summer Reading Assignment 2026

Due Date: September 8, 2026

Dear Incoming English 9 Student,

Your first assignment for the upcoming school year is to read at least one book of your choice—either fiction or nonfiction—over the summer break. After reading, you must complete the Summer Reading Choice Board Project detailed below. This assignment is mandatory for all incoming 9th-grade students at Bergenfield High School.

Academic Integrity: AI and Plagiarism Policy

The Humanities Department maintains a strict policy regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and plagiarism:

- **Zero Tolerance:** The use of AI to generate any part of this assignment is strictly prohibited and will result in an automatic grade of zero.
- **Originality Requirement:** 9th-grade English focuses on developing original thought, brainstorming, and drafting skills; therefore, all work must be your own.
- **Verification:** All writing assignments will be submitted to Turnitin.com for originality and AI detection scans.
- **No Exceptions:** If work is identified as AI-generated or plagiarized, it will not be accepted, and no exceptions will be made to the zero-policy.

Instructions for Students

1. **Selection:** Choose one activity from each of the three columns on the Choice Board (Total of 3 activities).
2. **Identification:** Label each activity with its specific column and title (e.g., "Creative Response: Alternate Ending") and include the book title and author on every assignment.
3. **Medium:** Draft your assignments on Google Docs unless the activity specifies an alternative medium.
4. **Submission:** All work is due by September 8, 2026
5. **Preparation:** Be prepared to write an in-class assessment about your novel during the first full week of classes in September.

Summer Reading Choice Board

Analysis & Reflection (Choose 1)	Connection & Reflection (Choose 1)	Creative Response (Choose 1)
Theme Analysis: Identify 3 major themes and provide textual evidence showing how they develop throughout the book. (Google Doc)	Text-to-Self Connection: Write about a time in your life that reminded you of an event or feeling in the story. Compare your reaction to the characters'. (Google Doc)	Alternate Ending: Write a 2–3 page conclusion to the story that remains true to the existing characters and themes. (Google Doc)
Literary Devices: Identify 8 different literary devices used in the text. Provide examples and explain their effectiveness. (Google Doc)	Text-to-World Connection: Research a current event or social issue related to a theme in the story. Write a short essay explaining the connection. (Google Doc)	Found Poetry: Create 2 poems using only words and phrases from the book. Surround them with images that express the identified ideas. (Google Drawing or Hand-crafted)
Critical Review: Write a 1–2 page review analyzing the book's specific strengths and weaknesses. (Google Doc)	Personal Growth Reflection: Describe how reading this story changed your perspective or made you think differently about a specific topic. (Google Doc)	Scene Perspective: Rewrite a key scene from a different character's point of view to reveal their inner thoughts and feelings. (Google Doc)
Character Motivation: Analyze a key decision a character makes and what motivates that decision using textual evidence. (Google Doc)	Empathy Exercise: Write about a challenge a character faced. Describe what emotions you would feel and what you would do in their place. (Google Doc)	Book Art: Create an artistic representation (painting or collage) of a significant scene with a written explanation of its importance. (Hand-crafted or Google Drawing)

Grading Criteria

Your project will be evaluated based on the following standards:

- **Depth of Understanding (40%):** Demonstrating a thorough engagement with the text and its nuances.
- **Creativity and Originality (25%):** Presenting unique ideas and personal insights without the aid of external generators.
- **Quality of Execution (25%):** Clarity of ideas, attention to detail, and quality of writing.
- **Requirements (10%):** Following all directions, labeling, and completing all three chosen tasks.

If you have questions, please contact the Humanities Department:

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