

Summer Reading Expectations

Sophomores 2026-2027

Students are required to read their two selected summer reading novels over the summer break. During the first full week of school, students will complete various in-class assignments based on their reading.

There is no written assignment due on the first day of school. However, students are expected to arrive having fully read the novels and completed thoughtful annotations throughout the texts. Careful annotation will help students complete the in-class assignments more successfully and contribute more meaningfully to class discussions.

As you read, consider annotating the following:

- **Setting:** How do time and place influence the characters, mood, or events?
- **Character development:** How do characters change over time? What motivates them? How do their relationships and conflicts shape them?
- **Conflicts:** Identify internal (within a character) and external (between characters or forces) conflicts. How do they build and resolve?
- **Key moments:** Mark scenes with high tension, turning points, or important decisions.
- **Important quotes:** Highlight passages you deem significant, and note why they matter.
- **Literary devices and figurative language:** Simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, imagery, symbolism, allusion, irony, foreshadowing, flashback, tone, mood, diction, repetition, conflict, point of view, oxymoron, alliteration, etc.
- **Patterns:** Look for repeated images, ideas, or situations. What might they suggest?
- **Themes:** What big ideas are emerging (identity, justice, family, power, morality)?
- **Questions/confusions:** Note anything unclear, surprising, or complex.
- **Connections:** Make links to other texts, historical context, or your own experiences.
- **Personal Reactions:** Note your personal reactions/feelings about moments or characters

Students should come to class ready to use their annotations to complete in-class assignments and engage in discussion.

If you have questions about your summer reading expectations, please email Mrs. Filipowicz (mfilipowicz@vmahs.org) or Ms. Murray (nmurray@vmahs.org).

Honors English II Book List

REQUIRED BOOKS FOR HONORS ENGLISH II

Each student must have her own copy of each required book for annotating. To facilitate class discussions, **please buy the requested editions** so that you can follow along easily.

BOOK TITLE and AUTHOR	ISBN
<i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F. Scott Fitzgerald	ISBN-13: 978-0743273565
<i>The Scarlet Letter</i> by Nathaniel Hawthorne	ISBN-13: 978-0143107668
<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> by Zora Neale Hurston	ISBN-13: 978-0061120060
<i>A Pocket Style Manual, 10th edition</i> edited by Diana Hacker	ISBN-13: 978-1319413019

CHOICE BOOKS FOR HONORS ENGLISH II SUMMER READING

Read **two** books from the options listed below.

BOOK TITLE and AUTHOR	ISBN
<i>Code Talker</i> by Joseph Bruchac	ISBN-13: 978-0142405963
<i>The Joy Luck Club</i> by Amy Tan	ISBN-13: 978-0143038092
<i>Kindred</i> by Octavia Butler	ISBN-13: 978-0807083697
<i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i> by Betty Smith	ISBN-13: 978-0060736262
<i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury	ISBN-13: 978-1451673319
<i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> by J. D. Salinger	ISBN-13: 978-0316769174
<i>When I Was Puerto Rican</i> by Esmeralda Santiago	ISBN-13: 978-0306814525
<i>The Secret Life of Bees</i> by Sue Monk Kidd	ISBN-13: 978-0142001745
<i>The Crucible</i> by Arthur Miller	ISBN-13: 978-0140481389
<i>Behold the Dreamers</i> by Imbolo Mbue	ISBN-13: 978-0525509714
<i>Wind from an Enemy Sky</i> by D'Arcy McNickle	ISBN-13: 978-0826311009
<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> by Lorraine Hansberry	ISBN-13: 978-0679755333

English II Book List

REQUIRED BOOKS FOR ENGLISH II

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BOOK TITLE and AUTHOR	ISBN
<i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F. Scott Fitzgerald	ISBN-13: 978-0743273565
<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> by Lorraine Hansberry	ISBN-13: 978-0679755333
<i>A Pocket Style Manual</i> , 10 th edition edited by Diana Hacker	ISBN-13: 978-1319413019

CHOICE BOOKS FOR ENGLISH II SUMMER READING

Read **two** books from the options listed below.

BOOK TITLE and AUTHOR	ISBN
<i>Kindred</i> by Octavia Butler	ISBN-13: 978-0807083697
<i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> by Tennessee Williams	ISBN-13: 978-0811216029
<i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury	ISBN-13: 978-1451673319
<i>The Secret Life of Bees</i> by Sue Monk Kidd	ISBN-13: 978-0142001745
<i>When I Was Puerto Rican</i> by Esmeralda Santiago	ISBN-13: 978-0306814525
<i>The Sun is Also a Star</i> by Nicola Yoon	ISBN-13: 978-0553496710
<i>Between Shades of Gray</i> by Ruta Sepetys	ISBN-13: 978-0142420591
<i>The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon</i> by Stephen King	ISBN-13: 978-1501157516
<i>Everything I Never Told You</i> by Celeste Ng	ISBN-13: 978-0143127550
<i>Our Missing Hearts</i> by Celeste Ng	ISBN-13: 978-0143127550
<i>The Crucible</i> by Arthur Miller	ISBN-13: 978-0140481389