

Summer Reading Expectations

Freshman 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.

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. Mullen (jmullen@vmahs.org).

Honors English I Book List

REQUIRED FOR HONORS ENGLISH I

Please buy all of the books on this list. These are the books you will read and study throughout the year. You should have your own copy of each text to practice annotating; ISBNs are listed so that you can buy the correct editions. **Please buy the requested editions** so that you can follow along easily in class discussions. Please note, you need to have your own copy *without* annotations.

BOOK TITLE	ISBN
<i>The Odyssey</i> , translated by Emily Wilson	ISBN-13: 978-0393089059
<i>The House on Mango Street</i> by Sandra Cisneros	ISBN-13: 978-0679734772
<i>Long Way Down</i> by Jason Reynolds	ISBN-13: 978-1481438261
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> by William Shakespeare (Folger Shakespeare Library edition)	ISBN-13: 978-1451621709
<i>A Pocket Style Manual</i> , 10 th edition edited by Diana Hacker	ISBN-13: 978-1319413019

CHOICE BOOKS FOR HONORS ENGLISH I SUMMER READING

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

BOOK TITLE	ISBN
<i>Girl in Translation</i> by Jean Kwok	ISBN-13: 978-1594485152
<i>The Hate U Give</i> by Angie Thomas	ISBN-13: 978-0062498533
<i>Persepolis</i> by Marjane Satrapi (graphic novel)	ISBN-13: 978-0375714573
<i>Of Mice and Men</i> by John Steinbeck	ISBN-13: 978-0140177398
<i>The Bean Trees</i> by Barbara Kingsolver	ISBN-13: 978-0062277756
<i>Chasing My Cure</i> by David Fajgenbaum	ISBN-13: 978-1524799632
<i>Turtles All the Way Down</i> John Green	ISBN-13: 978-0525555377
<i>The Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak	ISBN-13: 978-0375842207
<i>Falling Over Sideways</i> by Jordan Sonnenblick	ISBN-13: 978-0545863254
<i>Just Mercy (Adapted For Young Adults): A True Story of the Fight For Justice</i> by Bryan Stevenson	ISBN-13: 978-0525580034

English I Book List

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BOOK TITLE	ISBN
<i>The House on Mango Street</i> by Sandra Cisneros	ISBN-13: 9780679734772
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> by William Shakespeare (Folger Shakespeare Library edition)	ISBN-13: 9781451621709
<i>A Pocket Style Manual</i> , 10 th edition edited by Diana Hacker	ISBN-13: 978-1319413019

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<i>The Bean Trees</i> by Barbara Kingsolver	ISBN-13: 978-0062277756
<i>The Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak	ISBN-13: 978-0375842207
<i>Falling Over Sideways</i> by Jordan Sonnenblick	ISBN-13: 978-0545863254
<i>Chasing My Cure</i> by David Fajgenbaum	ISBN-13: 978-1524799618
<i>We Were Liars</i> by E. Lockhart	ISBN-13: 978-0385741279
<i>Just Mercy (Adapted For Young Adults): A True Story of the Fight For Justice</i>	ISBN-13: 978-0525580034