

To: Incoming American Lit 10 Honors Students  
From: The English Department  
Re: Summer Reading Assignment  
Date: June 2026



Those students who are accepting the challenge of American Lit Honors must **READ THREE TEXTS** by the first week of school in September. You will be assessed on your reading, and the grades will count towards the first marking period. In addition, you are expected to **participate in GoogleDoc Discussions** (see below for directions).

### EVERYONE MUST READ:

- 1) ***A Separate Peace* by Jonathan Knowles (American realistic fiction)**  
A conflict of loyalties between Gene and his fearless friend, Phineas, leads to tragedy.
- 2) ***Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver (American realistic fiction)**  
Taylor Greer hits the road wanting only to get as far away from Kentucky as possible, ending up in Arizona with a 3-year-old Cherokee girl she has inherited from a woman in a bar.
- 3) ***The Catcher in the Rye* (American realistic fiction)**  
After leaving prep school Holden Caulfield spends **three** days on his own in New York City on a journey of self-discovery.

It is recommended that you give yourselves enough time to read carefully and thoughtfully. You **MUST USE POST-ITS TO ANNOTATE. USE YOUR SIGN-POSTS.**

All three texts are being distributed to you. To help you pace your reading/manage your time and engage in good discussion, **here is the reading schedule that should be followed:**

***A Separate Peace*** (finish reading and participate in GoogleDoc discussion **by Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup>**)

***Bean Trees*** (finish reading and participate in GoogleDoc discussion **by Friday, August 7<sup>h</sup>**)

***The Catcher in the Rye*** (finish reading and participate in GoogleDoc discussion **by Wednesday, Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>**)

**OPTIONAL:** If you are looking for additional recommendations for personal reading, consider the titles below. They are all wonderful reads!

- ***The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas (lexile 590)**  
After witnessing her friend's death at the hands of a police officer, Starr Carter's life is complicated when the police and a local drug lord try to intimidate her in an effort to learn what happened the night Kahlil died.
- ***Dear Martin* by Nic Stone (lexile 720)**  
Writing letters to the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., seventeen-year-old college-bound Justyce McAllister struggles to face the reality of race relations today and how they are shaping him.

- ***I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika Sanchez (lexile 730)**  
 When the sister who delighted their parents by her faithful embrace of Mexican culture dies in a tragic accident, Julia, who longs to go to college and move into a home of her own, discovers from mutual friends that her sister may not have been as perfect as believed.
- ***All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely (lexile 770)**  
 When sixteen-year-old Rashad is mistakenly accused of stealing, classmate Quinn witnesses his brutal beating at the hands of a police officer who happens to be the older brother of his best friend. Told through Rashad and Quinn's alternating viewpoints.
- ***This Savage Song* by Victoria Schwab (lexile 830)**  
 "As the heirs to opposing sides in a warring city, Kate Harker and Augustus Flynn should never have met. A Romeo and Juliet-esque fantasy about the difference between good and evil and the blurry gray area in between".
- ***The Field Guide to the North American Teenager* by Ben Philippe (lexile 830)**  
 When Norris, a Black French Canadian, starts his junior year at an Austin, Texas, high school, he views his fellow students as cliches from "a bad 90s teen movie."
- ***I Was Their American Dream* by Malaka Gharib (graphic memoir)**  
 At once a coming-of-age story and a reminder of the thousands of immigrants who come to America in search for a better life for themselves and their children. The daughter of parents with unfulfilled dreams themselves, Malaka navigated her childhood chasing her parents' ideals, learning to code-switch between her family's Filipino and Egyptian customs, adapting to white culture to fit in, crushing on skater boys, and trying to understand the tension between holding onto cultural values and trying to be an all-American kid.
- ***Sorta Like a Rockstar* by Matthew Quick (lexile 960)**  
 Although seventeen-year-old Amber Appleton is homeless, living in a school bus with her unfit mother, she is a relentless optimist who visits the elderly at a nursing home, teaches English to Korean Catholic women with the use of rhythm and blues music, and befriends a solitary Vietnam veteran and his dog, but eventually she experiences one burden more than she can bear and slips into a deep depression.

## DIRECTIONS FOR GOOGLDOC DISCUSSION ENTRIES AMERICAN LIT HONORS

While you are reading this summer, you will have an opportunity to reflect on the readings, post questions and share your insights with your classmates and your teacher. This will happen using a GoogleDoc.

### **What is a GoogleDoc?**

It is an online document to which people are invited so that they can collaborate and share ideas.

### **Getting Started:**

**Step 1**—Using your school account, email Mrs. Papadopoulos at [academicsforlife@gmail.com](mailto:academicsforlife@gmail.com)

Include the following message:

Hi Mrs. Paps,

This is type your name. Here is my email address. I am taking identify the honors course.

**Step 2**—You will receive an “invitation” from Mrs. Papadopoulos to join a GoogleDoc. Click the link in the invitation, so that you can access the GoogleDoc.

(NOTE: If these directions are confusing, please stop by room 101 after school, and Mrs. Papadopoulos will assist you.)

**Step 3**—As you read your texts, you must access the GoogleDoc and post your contributions (follow the directions included in the GoogleDoc). You will be invited to a separate GoogleDoc for each novel which you are reading.

(NOTE: Each time you complete a post, make sure to identify yourself—name and date.

Log on early and follow the reading schedule so that you can benefit from the on-line discussions.)

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

*When are these reading logs due?* As you read, take the time to complete your posts. Make sure that you complete your responses by the first full week of school.

*How do I access the GoogleDoc?* Besides access from the emailed invitation, you can also go to [google.com](http://google.com) and sign-in to your account.

*Who do I contact over the summer if I have questions?* You can email Mrs. Papadopoulos at [academicsforlife@gmail.com](mailto:academicsforlife@gmail.com)