

Humanities 1 Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to **Humanities 1**, a course that combines **English 1** and **Civics/Perspectives on Race**.

In these partnered courses, you will read, write, discuss, and think about important questions such as:

- What does a person owe to their community?
- What does a community owe its people?
- How should a society balance freedom, responsibility, and fairness?
- How should power be used—and how should it be limited?

Why Reading Matters

Reading is one of the most important skills students build in high school.

In Humanities 1, **literacy** means more than just finishing a book. It means being able to:

- understand important ideas
- notice details and patterns
- think about different points of view
- connect texts to life and the world
- explain ideas clearly in speaking and writing

Strong reading helps students succeed in **every single subject**. This humanities course is designed to build a strong foundation of literacy for all students.

What You Need to Do

Students will read two books:

- ***Anthem*** by Ayn Rand
- ***Braiding Sweetgrass (Young Adult Adaptation)*** by Robin Wall Kimmerer

* See website for instructions on finding and downloading both books for free through Sora. You may also purchase copies or borrow them from your local library.

As you read, think about these questions:

- What does *Anthem* suggest about individuality and freedom?
- What does *Braiding Sweetgrass* suggest about community, reciprocity, and connection?
- What kind of society brings out the best in people?

Format for the Summer Assignment

1 page

typed **or** neatly handwritten

written in the student's own words!

Suggested length: about 300–500 words

This is **not** a formal essay.

The Assignment: Create a Society Blueprint

After finishing the books, students will create a **Society Blueprint**.

A **Society Blueprint** is a simple plan for how you believe a strong community should work.

In your responses, you should attempt to include:

- one idea, moment, or character from *Anthem*
- one idea, moment, or passage from *Braiding Sweetgrass*

What to Include in your Society Blueprint:

1. **Name of the Society**

Give the society a creative name.

2. **What the Society Values**

In 2–4 sentences, explain the kind of place you want your society to be (peaceful, innovative, harmonious with nature, competitive, cooperative, etc.)? What values are most important (freedom, equality, respect for nature, personal achievement, community support, etc.)?

3. **Rights or Freedoms**

List **2–3 rights or freedoms** people in the society have. What rules would you want in your society? What freedoms does your society give your citizens?

****Attempt to reference the novel *Anthem* in your response.***

4. **Responsibilities to Others**

List **2–3 responsibilities or expectations** people have toward one another or toward the natural world. *Try to reference our school's magnet themes of Biological and Zoological sciences!*

****Attempt to reference *Braiding Sweetgrass* in your response.***

5. **Leadership and Decision-Making**

In 3–5 sentences, explain:

- Who makes decisions?
- How are leaders chosen?
- How are rules enforced?
- What happens when people disagree?

6. **Short Reflection**

Answer this question in one short paragraph (5-7 sentences):

Which book had a bigger impact on your society design, and why?

***Try your best to accomplish this before school starts! This Summer task will better prepare you for what is to be expected in your humanities courses regarding literacy, writing and collaboration. More information and supporting materials are available on the school website.**

How to Access Summer Reading Books in Sora (MyBPS Portal & Public Library Availability)

Dear Families,

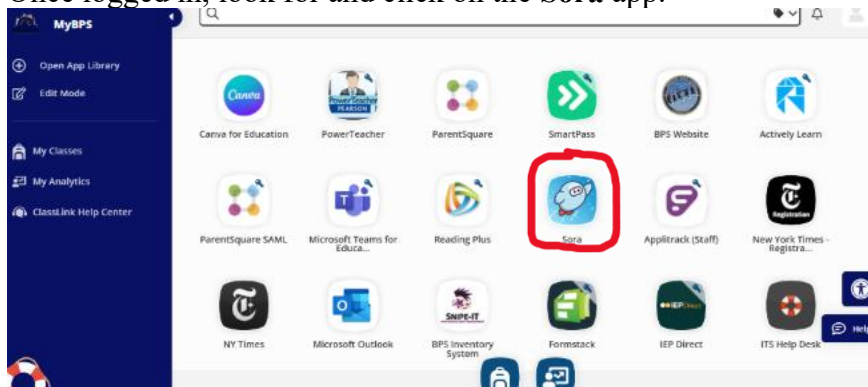
Your student can access *Anthem* and *Braiding Sweetgrass* (and many other titles) for free through the **Sora** app via the **MyBPS portal**.

Option 1: On a Computer / Chromebook (Recommended for Home)

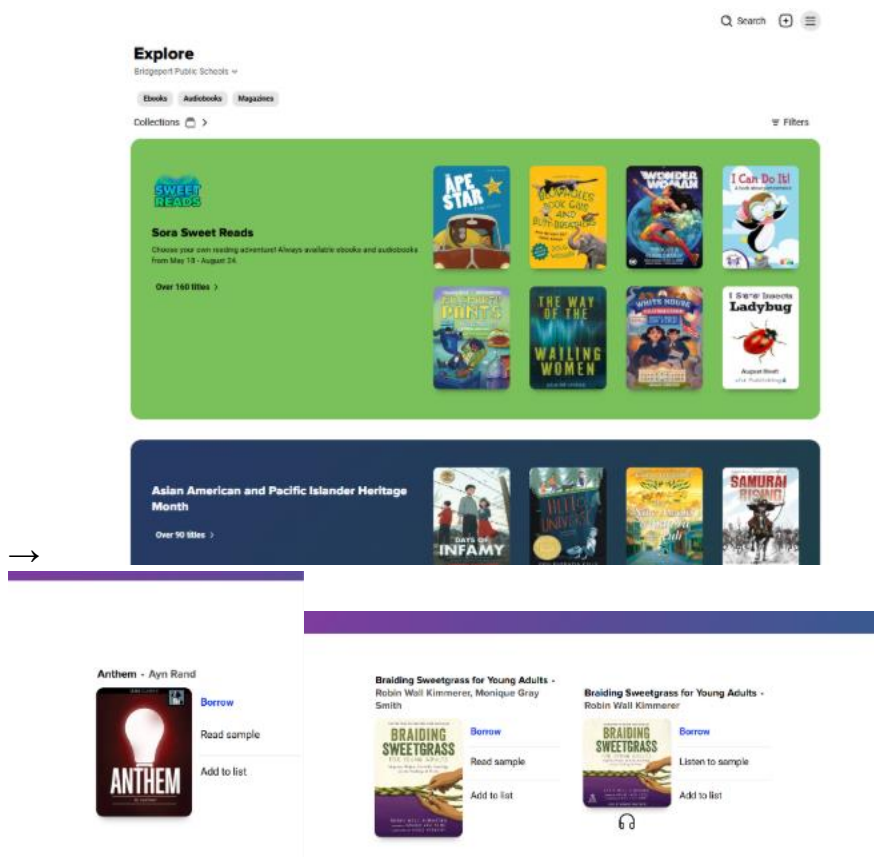
1. Go to the **MyBPS Portal** →



2. Log in with your student's **MyBPS username and password**.
3. Once logged in, look for and click on the **Sora** app. →



4. You should now be in **Sora**. Search for the book titles:
 - o *Anthem* by: Ayn Rand
 - o *Braiding Sweetgrass*



5. Click on the book cover → **Borrow** (most titles have instant availability).

***The Sora application is also available on mobile devices.**

Option 2: Local Libraries & Amazon Purchasing

Anthem and *Braiding Sweetgrass* may also be available at your local library and available to be purchased on Amazon as well. (*Braiding Sweetgrass* – Approx. \$15 & *Anthem* – Approx. \$6)

Quick Tips

- Books are usually available for **14 days** on Sora.
- You can read on any device (phone, tablet, Chromebook, computer).
- Audiobook versions are often available — great for listening while commuting.
- If a book says “Place Hold,” it will notify your student when it becomes available.
- Need help? Reach out or contact your local library.

Questions? Email: Mr. Reyes @ areyes@bridgeportedu.net or Ms. Murphy @ lmurphy@bridgeportedu.net

Summer Reading Sentence Starters for Society Blueprint

Use this page to help you get started. You do NOT need to use all of these. Choose the ones that help you explain your ideas clearly in your own words.

1. Name of the Society

- My society is called _____.
- I chose this name because _____.
- This name represents _____.

2. What My Society Values

- My society is a place where _____.
- The most important value is _____.
- People in my society believe that _____.
- I want my society to be (fair/peaceful/creative/etc.) because _____.
- A strong community should _____.

3. Rights or Freedoms (Anthem)

- People in my society have the right to _____.
- Everyone is free to _____.
- One important freedom is _____ because _____.
- My society protects individuality by _____.
- In Anthem, I noticed _____.
- Because Anthem shows _____, my society will _____.

4. Responsibilities (Braiding Sweetgrass)

- People in my society are expected to _____.
- Everyone has a responsibility to _____.
- People help one another by _____.
- One responsibility to nature is _____.
- In Braiding Sweetgrass, I learned _____.
- My society reflects this by _____.

5. Leadership and Decision-Making

- Decisions are made by _____.
- Leaders are chosen by _____.
- Rules are enforced by _____.
- If someone breaks a rule, _____.
- When people disagree, _____.
- My society limits power by _____.

6. Short Reflection

- The book that influenced me most was _____.
- It was more impactful because _____.
- One important idea is _____.
- I used that idea when I created _____.
- Overall, this book shaped my thinking by _____.

Word Bank

Use the words below to help you describe your society.

Values

fairness, freedom, equality, respect, creativity, peace, cooperation, independence

Rights

speech, choice, safety, education, expression, privacy, opportunity, participation

Responsibilities

help others, protect nature, respect differences, contribute, solve problems peacefully

Leadership

vote, leaders, council, shared power, rules, compromise, accountability

Final Reminder

- Write in **your own words**

- Use ideas from **both books**
- Be thoughtful — your ideas don't have to be perfect, just honest
- You will talk about your ideas in class, so make sure they are truly yours