# Summer Reading Expectations

## Juniors 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 Ms. Crawford (jcrawford@vmahs.org), Mr. Borosky (bborosky@vmahs.org), or Ms. Murray (nmurray@vmahs.org).

# Honors English III Book List

| REQUIRED BOOKS FOR HONORS ENGLISH III<br>During your Honors English 3 course, discussions and writing assignments will be based on the works listed below. Each student must have her own copy of each required work for annotating. **To facilitate class discussions, please buy the requested editions listed below**. | |
|---|---|
| **BOOK TITLE** | **ISBN** |
| ***Beowulf**, translated by Burton Raffel* | ISBN-13: 978-0451530967 |
| ***Pride and Prejudice*** by Jane Austen | ISBN-13: 978-0486284736 |
| ***A Christmas Carol*** by Charles Dickens | ISBN-13: 978-0486268651 |
| ***The Importance of Being Earnest*** by Oscar Wilde | ISBN-13: 978-0486264783 |
| ***Macbeth*** by William Shakespeare (Folger Shakespeare Library edition) | ISBN-13: 978-0743477109 |
| ***A Pocket Style Manual, 9th edition,*** edited by Diana Hacker | ISBN-13: 978-1319169541 |

| CHOICE BOOKS FOR HONORS ENGLISH III SUMMER READING<br>For summer reading, read **two** books from the options listed below. | |
|---|---|
| **BOOK TITLE** | **ISBN** |
| ***1984*** by George Orwell | ISBN-13: 978-0451524935 |
| ***Water for Elephants*** by Sara Gruen | ISBN-13: 978-1565125605 |
| ***Nineteen Minutes*** by Jodi Picoult | ISBN-13: 978-0743496735 |
| ***The Kite Runner*** by Khaled Hosseini | ISBN-13: 978-1594631931 |
| ***Born A Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood*** by Trevor Noah | ISBN-13: 978-0399588198 |
| ***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*** by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer | ISBN-13: 978-0007316199 |
| ***A Book of Luminous Things*** by Czeslaw Milosz | ISBN-13: 978-0156005746 |
| ***Life of Pi*** by Yann Martel | ISBN-13: 978-0156027328 |
| ***The Alchemist*** Paulo Coelho | ISBN-13: 978-0062315007 |
| ***All the Light We Cannot See*** by Anthony Doerr | ISBN-13: 978-1501173219 |
| ***Jane Eyre*** by Charlotte Bronte | ISBN-13: 978-0679783329 |

# English III Book List

| REQUIRED BOOKS FOR ENGLISH III<br>During your English 3 course, discussions and writing assignments will be based on the works listed below. Each student must have her own copy of each required work since you will be instructed to highlight certain passages and to make notations in the text. **To facilitate class discussions, please buy the requested editions shown below.** | |
|---|---|
| **BOOK TITLE** | **ISBN** |
| ***Beowulf***, translated by Burton Raffel | ISBN-13: 978-0451530967 |
| ***Grendel*** by John Gardner | ISBN-13: 978-0679723110 |
| ***Macbeth*** by William Shakespeare (Folger Shakespeare Library edition) | ISBN-13: 978-0743477109 |
| ***A Pocket Style Manual, 9th edition,*** edited by Diana Hacker | ISBN-13: 978-1319169541 |

| CHOICE BOOKS FOR ENGLISH III SUMMER READING<br>For summer reading, read **two** books from the options listed below. | |
|---|---|
| **BOOK TITLE** | **ISBN** |
| ***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*** by Mark Haddon | ISBN-13: 978-1400032716 |
| ***Rebecca*** by Daphne DuMaurier | ISBN-13: 978-0380730407 |
| ***Never Let Me Go*** by Kazuo Ishiguro | ISBN-13: 978-1400078776 |
| ***Murder on the Orient Express*** by Agatha Christie | ISBN-13: 978-0062689665 |
| ***And Then There Were None*** by Agatha Christie | ISBN-13: 978-0062073488 |
| ***The Last Anniversary*** by Liane Moriarty | ISBN-13: 978-0062937926 |
| ***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*** by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer | ISBN-13: 978-0007316199 |
| ***A Book of Luminous Things*** by Czeslaw Milosz | ISBN-13: 978-0156005746 |
| ***Pride and Prejudice*** by Jane Austen | ISBN-13: 978-0486284736 |
| ***The Graveyard Book*** by Neil Gaiman | ISBN-13: 978-0060530945 |
| ***Life of Pi*** by Yann Martel | ISBN-13: 978-0156027328 |
| ***The Alchemist*** Paulo Coelho | ISBN-13: 978-0062315007 |
| ***All the Light We Cannot See*** by Anthony Doerr | ISBN-13: 978-1501173219 |
| ***Night*** by Elie Wiesel | ISBN-13: 978-0374500016 |
| ***Born A Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood*** by Trevor Noah | ISBN-13: 978-0399588198 |