

English 1 Honors: Summer Assignment

Welcome Class of 2026! I hope you enjoy some time to relax and engage in the hobbies and activities that you love this summer. Consider carving out some time each day to read great literature too! I've compiled a book list where you will read **one play** but then you have a **choice** of one fiction **and** one nonfiction book for a total of **three books**. Choose something that you've never read before that will challenge and engage you. Then, complete the handwritten assignment below.

What will I be reading this summer?

Choose two books: **one fiction** and **one nonfiction** book.

2022 List of Required Readings:

Play: *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail* by Robert E. Lee and Jerome Lawrence

Fiction: Each author's work represents challenges faced in American culture.

- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* by Mark Haddon

~AND~

Choose one Nonfiction: These will focus on some of the issues represented in the fiction books. Try to pair them so you can discuss the theme represented in both.

- *Nisei Daughter* by Monica Sone (autobiography)
- *Taking Hold: From Migrant Childhood to Columbia University* by Francisco Jimenez
- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou

Assignment #1: Keep a journal for each text.

A. **For the fictional novel and the play**, record the following:

- key plot events
- Narrative point of view

- Conflicts- Character Driven or Plot Driven; Internal or External Conflict; How are conflicts introduced and how are they addressed; Does it get resolved?
- Characters involved and their relationship with each other; their personality traits; how does the character change throughout the story.
- What is the theme or the message of the text?
- Are there literary devices that are used? Consider characterization, symbolism, setting, point of view, motif, irony, imagery, irony, etc. (There's many, many more so just show what you know).
- Select and record ten quotations from the text and explain the significance of each quotation.

B. For the non-fiction book.

- Summarize any major points the author makes including the central idea or message that the author wants you to know.
- Select and record ten quotations from the text and explain the significance to the major points.
- Indicate what issue the non-fiction book addresses and try to make connections to either another text or to issues you hear in the news.

Assignment #2: After you complete your handwritten journal, write a one-page composition (300-500 word essay) with a thoughtful response about what you've read on a Google Doc (12 pt. Font, Times New Roman, Double Spaced with the heading). **Please do not summarize the text in your writing composition.** You may take a personal, creative, or academic

approach in your response but it's important to demonstrate the thinking you did while you read.

How will this be used in the Fall?

Your written response and your ability to discuss it in class will be one of the first impressions your new English teacher will have of you. More details will be provided in the first week of class regarding how to submit it. Have the journals ready for the first day of class. The written response can be submitted by the end of the first week.

****Every student is expected to complete these assignments and they will be due at the end of the first week of school.****

Note: Here are some local places to buy your books besides ordering it online.

- **Barnes & Noble bookstore** (on 7th Ave. & 6th Street)
- **Greenlight Bookstore** in Fort Greene
- **The Community Bookstore**, 143 7th Avenue. They have a nice reading area in the back of their store
- **Books are Magic**, 225 Smith Street, Brooklyn
- **The Strand Bookstore**, the corner of 12th Street and Broadway in Manhattan. This is the most iconic bookstore in New York City and it's completely worth the trip. They have a new coffee kiosk inside but The Bean nearby is my favorite for a drink, a snack and a place to sit. I am not affiliated with them at all! So, if you go, be prepared to get a bit lost in the bookstore (I do every time...there really is 8 miles of books) and declare a meeting time/place before you wander. Many

of the books on the shelves are used books so you can get them cheaper than the newer ones on the tables. You can ask a worker where to find it.

Now, find a great spot to read! Consider reading outdoors. My favorite places to read are the Brooklyn Bridge Park in DUMBO, the Brooklyn Heights Promenade, The Old Stone House Park and, of course, Prospect Park. Enjoy!