

English 1 Regents: Summer Assignment

Welcome Class of 2026! I hope you enjoy your summer. Here is your required reading list for this summer. You will read two fiction books **and** one nonfiction book for a total of **three books**. Then, complete the handwritten assignment below.

What will I be reading this summer?

2022 List of Required Readings:

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

- *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros
- *Gorilla, My Love* by Toni Cade Bambara

~AND~

Your choice! Choose one Nonfiction:

- *The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller
- *The Diary of Anne Frank* by Anne Frank

Assignment #1: Keep a journal for each text.

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

- key plot events
- Point of view: Who's telling the story? How do you know?
- Conflicts- Internal or External Conflict; How are conflicts introduced and how are they addressed; Does it get resolved?
- Characters: What is their personality? How do you know?; How does the character change throughout the story? What causes that change?
- What is the theme or the message of the text?
- Are there literary devices that are used? Some examples are setting, point of view, setting, imagery, figurative language (metaphors,

similies, personification, etc.) characterization, etc. (There's many, many more so just show what you know).

- Select and record ten quotations from each 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. Did you make any connections about the message in the text and another text? Maybe you see connections between the text and something happening in the world.

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 ways your new English teacher will get to know you. 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.****

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!