



## ***To the Students Who Will Take 9th Grade Honors English and their Parents:***

Welcome to high school and an exciting year of close reading and thoughtful discussions! All students who will be taking 9th grade honors English during the 2021-2022 school year are required to **read a minimum of four (4) books AND complete the attached book charts (one for each book).**

These books represent a study in similar literary themes. Students will analyze the selections upon returning to school in the fall. While reading, students should think about the similarities in theme and societal implications.

### **Book List**

Students are to choose **one (1) book** from each of the following categories.

#### **1. The Value of Language and the Dangers of Censorship**

- ***Ella Minnow Pea* by Mark Dunn**  
*An epistolary or novel written in letters, which portrays a society that begins to outlaw letters of the alphabet one by one*
  
- ***Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury**  
*A futuristic cautionary tale which portrays a society where books are outlawed*  
Online text: <https://www.ccsnh.us/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=16792&dataid=23409&FileName=Fahrenheit%20451.pdf>  
Audiobook: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAa9\\_5sEm60](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAa9_5sEm60)

#### **2. Understanding Historical Prejudice and Social Class Struggles**

- ***A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry (Screenplay)**  
*This text comes from the poem "Harlem." The story is based upon a black family's experiences in the Washington Park Subdivision of Chicago's Woodlawn neighborhood.*  
Online text: [https://khdzamlit.weebly.com/uploads/1/1/2/6/11261956/a\\_raisin\\_in\\_the\\_sun\\_-\\_lorraine\\_hansberry.pdf](https://khdzamlit.weebly.com/uploads/1/1/2/6/11261956/a_raisin_in_the_sun_-_lorraine_hansberry.pdf)  
Audiobook: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5GOPLeJIna8>
  
- ***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak**  
*This novel by Australian author Markus Zusak is narrated by Death. The book is set in Nazi Germany, a place and time when the narrator notes he was extremely busy.*  
Online text: [https://westernhs.bcps.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_4204286/Image/Grade9GT--TheBookThiefMarkusZusak.pdf](https://westernhs.bcps.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_4204286/Image/Grade9GT--TheBookThiefMarkusZusak.pdf)  
Audiobook: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jzfz0ERzfY&list=PLBUZ26vnrDof-IwrchMA7Fj\\_s-rAbdgrY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jzfz0ERzfY&list=PLBUZ26vnrDof-IwrchMA7Fj_s-rAbdgrY)

### 3. Making Tough Decisions and Growing Up

- ***Rocket Boys* by Homer Hickam, also published as *October Sky* (Nonfiction)**  
*This first memoir in a series of three, by Homer Hickam, Jr. is a story of growing up and a boy's pursuit of amateur rocketry in a coal mining town.*  
Audiobook: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLaf5Hq9bnJsHPJC9LSMcPsyOLUIB83eYm>
- ***The Children of Willesden Lane* by Mona Golabek & Lee Cohen (Nonfiction)**  
*This novel is based on the true story of Mona Golabek and describes the inspirational story of Lisa Jura Golabek's escape from Nazi-controlled Austria to England on the famed Kindertransport.*  
Audiobook: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-lySKFcHIH8>

### 4. Classics

- ***Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie**  
*This detective novel by Agatha Christie features the Belgian detective Hercule Poirot.*  
Online text: [http://detective.gumer.info/anto/christie\\_8\\_2.pdf](http://detective.gumer.info/anto/christie_8_2.pdf)  
Audiobook: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWfN2h02kZM>
- ***Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë**  
*Jane Eyre follows the emotions and experiences of its title character, including her growth to adulthood, and her love for Mr. Rochester, the master of fictitious Thornfield Hall.*  
Online text: <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1260/1260-h/1260-h.htm>  
Audiobook: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJ40FnqqQ0E>
- ***A Separate Peace* by John Knowles**  
*This American classic and bestseller for over thirty years is timeless in its description of adolescence during a period when the entire country was losing its innocence to the Second World War.*  
Online text: <https://www.bydewey.com/Peace.pdf>  
Audiobook: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NCnrrIJSNHA>

These book selections represent a wide range of literary language and ideas. They are intended to introduce students to the kind of content, themes, and writing and speaking styles they can expect to encounter in their honors level studies. In an effort to promote more opportunities for choice and personal reading/listening enjoyment, this list contains a wide range of modern and classic titles and topics.

Contemporary selections may contain brief instances of profanity. Parents are encouraged to take part in the process of choosing the best books for their children. Read book jackets and back covers to find the subjects and styles of greatest interest. While the texts should present some challenge to the students, they should also allow for hours of enjoyable reading. Furthermore, these selections will increase the body of literature and perspectives upon which the students can draw as they learn to analyze ideas and discern meaning.

Written Requirement:

Students are required to complete the attached **book charts**. One book chart must be completed for each novel. (*Students must use their original thoughts and quotations from the works only. No outside resources (Sparknotes.com and the like) should be used to complete the charts.*) Please note: The charts are designed as a **note-taking device** to reflect the types of literary elements we will explore throughout the year. Likewise, they provide the teacher with a benchmark of students' current levels of analysis. Students will use these charts to study for assessments.

**\*Students are required to submit completed book charts on the first day of school. Students may print the charts and handwrite on them or complete the charts electronically by clicking the links.**

Assessments:

Upon returning to school in September, students will be evaluated on their engagement with these works. These assessments may include: **a passage-based multiple choice test, a written or spoken commentary, and an impromptu speech.** The summer reading **book charts will also be assessed for completeness and effort upon returning to school.** These charts are designed to help students prepare for their September evaluations and practice the critical reading skills that will be refined throughout the school year.

Book Availability and Content:

The books are available at a variety of prices through a range of publishers and booksellers. Please obtain the full text, rather than the abridged, for each title. The Abington Community Library may have copies and eBooks available throughout the summer. In addition, many full-text versions of the works are linked in this letter or can be purchased inexpensively as an eBook. Audio links are provided as a support if needed.

Have a wonderful summer and enjoy reading!

Sincerely,

Abington Heights  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors  
English Teacher

**Book Charts Editable Link:**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lxtSpL3khzWsEF4w9WEmgS2J0HRhsxewnJ880pjD\\_fl/edit?usp=/copy](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lxtSpL3khzWsEF4w9WEmgS2J0HRhsxewnJ880pjD_fl/edit?usp=/copy)

**English 1 Honors Summer Reading Book Chart (1 of 4)**

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Author Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Main Characters:** Identify and describe the four (4) most important characters in the work.

<b>Character name</b>	<b>Character description (paraphrased in your own words)</b>

**Themes:** Identify and discuss three (3) important themes in the story.

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Explain how the author communicates the theme. (Identify specific incidents where the author explores the theme.)</b>	<b>How/why is the theme relevant to society today?</b>

**Quotations:** Extract three (3) salient/significant/important quotations and provide the page number.

*\*Responses can be varied and unique to each reader. Significant quotations are those that: illustrate key themes, contain profound ideas, provoke a response within you (the reader), contain symbolism, capture key elements of the novel, make you think, and/or capture the author's style or voice.*

<b>Quotation and Page Number (for eBook, use chapter number)</b>	<b>Explain why this quotation is significant/important in the story and/or in life.</b>

## English 1 Honors Summer Reading Book Chart (2 of 4)

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Main Characters** (Identify and describe the four (4) most important characters in the work.)

Character name	Character description (paraphrased in your own words)

**Themes:** Identify three (3) important themes in the story.

Theme	Explain how the author communicates the theme. (Identify specific incidents where the author explores the theme.)	How/why is the theme relevant to society today?

**Quotations:** Extract three (3) salient/significant/important quotations and provide the page number.

*\*Responses can be varied and unique to each reader. Significant quotations are those that: illustrate key themes, contain profound ideas, provoke a response within you (the reader), contain symbolism, capture key elements of the novel, make you think, and/or capture the author's style or voice.*

Quotation and Page Number (for eBook, use chapter number)	Explain why this quotation is significant/important in the story and/or in life.

## English 1 Honors Summer Reading Book Chart (3 of 4)

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Main Characters** (Identify and describe the four (4) most important characters in the work.)

Character name	Character description (paraphrased in your own words)

**Themes:** Identify three (3) important themes in the story.

Theme	Explain how the author communicates the theme. (Identify specific incidents where the author explores the theme.)	How/why is the theme relevant to society today?

**Quotations:** Extract three (3) salient/significant/important quotations and provide the page number.

*\*Responses can be varied and unique to each reader. Significant quotations are those that: illustrate key themes, contain profound ideas, provoke a response within you (the reader), contain symbolism, capture key elements of the novel, make you think, and/or capture the author's style or voice.*

Quotation and Page Number (for eBook, use chapter number)	Explain why this quotation is significant/important in the story and/or in life.

## English 1 Honors Summer Reading Book Chart (4 of 4)

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Main Characters** (Identify and describe the four (4) most important characters in the work.)

Character name	Character description (paraphrased in your own words)

**Themes:** Identify three (3) important themes in the story.

Theme	Explain how the author communicates the theme. (Identify specific incidents where the author explores the theme.)	How/why is the theme relevant to society today?

**Quotations:** Extract three (3) salient/significant/important quotations and provide the page number.

*\*Responses can be varied and unique to each reader. Significant quotations are those that: illustrate key themes, contain profound ideas, provoke a response within you (the reader), contain symbolism, capture key elements of the novel, make you think, and/or capture the author's style or voice.*

Quotation and Page Number (for eBook, use chapter number)	Explain why this quotation is significant/important in the story and/or in life.

