



Honors Freshman English 2020-2021 Summer Assignments

To students taking 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 2020-2021 school year are required to

- read a minimum of three (3) books **AND** complete **the attached book charts (one (1) for each book) and**
- watch a minimum of one (1) TED Talk **AND** complete **the attached (and linked) chart.**

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

Book List

Students are to choose **three (3) books** from this list.

- ***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:
file:///home/chronos/u-4c00845c6650ea4d5cb62d60b29d08c8572ee10b/MyFiles/Downloads/Fahrenheit%20451%20-%20Ray%20Bradbury_4753.pdf
Audiobook: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KC3x0tIsxa4>
- ***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
Audiobook: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDOL1TTE4jM>
- ***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

Audiobook:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jzfv0ERZfY&list=PLBUZ26vnrDof-IwrchMA7Fjs-rAbdgrY>

- **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=PLaf5Hq9bnJsHPJC9LSMcPsyQLUIB83eYm>

- **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>

- **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
Audiobook: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXv7WCpjDEE>

- **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.planetebook.com/free-ebooks/jane-eyre.pdf>
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>

TED Talk list

Students are to choose **one (1)** TED Talk from this list.

- **“How to Overcome Our Biases? Walk Boldly Toward Them” by Vernā Myers**
“Diversity advocate Vernā Myers looks closely at some of the subconscious attitudes we hold toward out-groups. She makes a plea to all people: Acknowledge your biases. Then move toward, not away from, the groups that make you uncomfortable. In a funny, impassioned, important talk, she shows us how.”
https://www.ted.com/talks/verna_myers_how_to_overcome_our_biases_walk_boldly_toward_them?language=en

- **“What it Takes to be Racially Literate” by Prya Vulchi and Winona Guo**

“Over the last year, Priya Vulchi and Winona Guo traveled to all 50 US states, collecting personal stories about race and intersectionality. Now they're on a mission to equip every American with the tools to understand, navigate and improve a world structured by racial division. In a dynamic talk, Vulchi and Guo pair the personal stories they've collected with research and statistics to reveal two fundamental gaps in our racial literacy -- and how we can overcome them.”

https://www.ted.com/talks/priya_vulchi_and_winona_guo_what_it_takes_to_be_racially_literate

- **“Understanding My Privilege” by Susan E. Borrego**

“University Chancellor, Susan E. Borrego, reflects on her life as an emancipated minor and dissects the emotionally charged conversation surrounding race relations in the United States. This raconteur uses her powerful first-person account of ‘White Privilege’ and ‘Black Lives Matter’ to underscore the responsibility each one of us has to bring about change.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XlRxqC0Sze4>

- **“How to Achieve Your Most Ambitious Goals” by Stephen Duneier**

“In his talk, Stephen explains that what truly defines him aren't titles, but an approach to decision making that transformed him from someone who struggled with simple tasks to a guy who is continuously achieving even his most ambitious dreams.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQMbvJNRpLE>

- **“The Other Side of Ego” by Jonathan Gravenor**

“Jonathan tells about his intimate journey with a deadly disease. And he also tells a bigger story about how the disease launched him on a pilgrimage to become a better man. He uses his gifts, as a raconteur to show how some of the answers about how to survive his cancer were revealed in his quest for redemption.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g72SmMdfBpk>

- **“The Masks We All Wear” by Ashanti Branch**

“Can we share our authentic selves while negotiating the often rigid pressure of cultural roles? There is surprising power in unveiling what we often hide, deny, repress or ignore. What if we showed the world what's behind our masks?”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M34wU5kXajI>

- **“The Gift of Adversity” by Marcus Aurelius Andersen**

“This talk discusses how we as Citizens can use the Adversity that we face every day as a way to change the world in which we all live for the better.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXicUawrH6o>

These book selections and TED Talks 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 and TED Talks 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 and TED Talk chart**. 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 **notetaking 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 collaborative poster assignment, a passage-based multiple choice test, a written or spoken commentary, and an impromptu speech**. The summer reading **book charts and TED Talk chart will also be assessed for completeness, effort, and neatness 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
9th Grade Honors
English Teacher

Book Charts Editable Link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lxtSpL3khzWsEF4w9WEmgS2J0HRhsxewnJ880pjD_fl/edit?usp=sharing

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

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 and discuss 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 (2 of 3)

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 3)

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.

TED Talk Editable Slide link:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ANIXJ5FyCIEW6cxxXXLenoA337uTE4jcHacmMbD4C1A/edit?usp=sharing>

Directions		Title of TED Talk:	Name of Speaker:	Date of TED Talk and Number of Views:
<p>View the TED Talk and complete the following grid. If you run out of space on the grid for any of your answers, feel free to continue writing on the back of this sheet.</p>		1	2	3
4	<p>What was the speaker's thesis (main point) of this speech?</p>	<p>6 Ethos is a speaker's ability to build credibility, establish himself/herself as an expert, and/or convince the audience members that the speaker has their best interests at heart. How does this speaker build ethos? Feel free to also refer to the speaker's profile information from the ted.com webpage as you build your answer.</p>		
<p>5 Circle any of the following adjectives that describe this TED talk:</p> <p>Inspiring Humorous Dull Persuasive Intellectual Repetitive Confusing</p>		<p>7 Pathos is an appeal to emotions (everything from humor to horror) in order to sway an audience, while logos is the use of data/evidence to prove one's case. Did this speaker rely more on pathos or logos in his/her presentation? What argument/point in this presentation did you find the most compelling? Why?</p>		
8	<p>TED Talk presenters are known as effective public speakers. Describe two things this speaker does well in terms of engaging the audience. Be sure to include the minute:second mark (ex: 8:49) to denote the two specific moments you discuss here.</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>	<p>9 Write two specific things you learned from this presentation.</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>		
10	<p>If you could ask this speaker a question about his/her information or presentation, what would you ask?</p>	<p>11 Give one piece of constructive criticism that would improve the presentation.</p>		
<p>12 What group of people would benefit the most from hearing this lecture?</p>				



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