

**Honors Sophomore English 2020-2021**

**Summer Assignments**

**10th Grade Honors English Students:**

Welcome! All students who will be taking 10th Grade Honors English during the 2020-2021 school year are required to read three books, listen to a podcast, and write a one-page paper before the school year begins. These selections represent both classical and contemporary world literature.

You can try to find online PDFs for the books if you cannot find print copies. If you’d like to stay in touch over the summer, you can join the Summer 2020 ENG II Honors classroom with the code **mpywvph.**

**1. Required Reading:**

*The Alchemist* by Paolo Coelho

This novel details the journey of a shepherd boy from Spain to Morocco to

Egypt, in a quest for success and self-discovery.

**2. Fiction: Choose one of books below.**

* *Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton

This is a novel about the Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son, Absalom, set against the background of apartheid in 1940s South Africa. You will revisit this theme during the year in CWS.

* *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

This is the story of an Indian youth who survives in a boat for several months after the ship his family was traveling on sinks.

* *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmond Rostand.

This funny, witty, and touching classic French drama is about a man who, though brilliant, believes he cannot attract the girl he loves because of his unfortunate looks. Instead, he writes letters for his handsome but dull-witted friend, who also loves the girl.

* *The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck

This classic novel is set in China in the 1920s, and traces the life of a poor farmer and his family as they strive for survival, wealth, and happiness.

**3. Non-fiction: Choose one of the following books.**

* *The Tao of Pooh* by Benjamin Hoff

This nonfiction book is an analysis of the Winnie the Pooh stories through the lens of Taoism; we will study the *Tao te Ching* this year.

* *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz.

This piece of nonfiction outlines the wisdom of the Toltec people, an ancient society who lived in Mexico. These rules for living include being true to your word, not taking things personally, not making assumptions, and trying your best.

* *Man’s Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankl

This is a classic autobiographical piece by a man who was imprisoned in four different Nazi camps, and survived. The lessons he learned about suffering and finding meaning in life have taught generations of readers.

**4. Podcast: “Myths and Legends”**

In order to gain insight into the backgrounds and mythologies of the world in a less

conventional way, you will be listening to a selection of episodes from the podcast “Myths and Legends.” These episodes can be easily accessed for free from any device. You can find them on mythpodcast.com, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and a variety of other apps.

Choose **one category** from the chart on the next page and listen to the **8 episodes** in that category. (Thank you to Ms. Owens for mapping this out!)

**5.** **Write a reflection:** Write a brief reflection paper in which you relate one (or more) of the ideas from one of the books to your life. Explain the idea itself, its place in the overall meaning of the book, and its connection to some aspect of your life. Use at least one direct quotation and cite it; include an APA Reference page. The paper should be one typed page minimum.

**It is due on the first day of class.**

You will be evaluated on your understanding of these texts when you return to school in September.

Happy reading, listening, and reflecting!

Dr. Marilyn Pryle

English Teacher, Abington Heights High School

**Podcast Categories and Episodes**

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| **King Arthur** | **African Folklore** | **Irish Legends** |
| 27A - The Violence Inherent in the System  27B - Mayday  27C - The Errant Knight  41A - Lancelot: The Stolen Child  41B - Lancelot: Promises to Keep  41C - Lancelot: It’s Complicated  120A - Holy Grail: Only the Penitent Man will Pass  120B - Holy Grail: Beyond the Sea | 40 - Cold-blooded  53 - Crocodile Tears  78 - The Master Namer  104 - The First Avenger  106A - Long Live the King  106B - Bad Mood  106C - Who Tells Your Story  173 - Fortune | 22A - Red Ledger  22B - You Wouldn’t Like Me When I’m Angry  22C - Spoils of War  95A - Wanted  95B - Finn the Human  128 - Give Him the FInger  139A - The Hound  139B - Evitable |
| **Japanese Folklore** | **The Americas** | **Vikings** |
| 11 - Key Details  26 - Wisdom  57 - Faithful  73 - I Will Find You  74 - Do You Really Want To Live Forever?  143 - Crabby  149 - Son of a Peach  161 - Karma | 19 - Skeletons  30 - Unbreakable  58 - Monster  66A - Paul Bunyan: Truth in Advertising  98 - Runner in the Night  116A - Alta California  116B - Outlaw Country  140 - La Llorona: No Way Out | 3A - The Norse and the Furious, Bredi's Drift  3B - All that Hate's Gonna Burn You Up  3C - Renewed Shall be Blade that was Broken  3D - Blood of the Dragon  13A - The Beggar King  13B - Why'd it have to be Snakes  31A - Odd Man Out  31B - Face-Off |