

Summer Reading List

2026-2027

Students will be tested on both books during the first few weeks of school. The English department recommends that students take notes while reading. If you have an issue obtaining a copy of the book, please notify the school, and we will be happy to assist you. **ALL READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2026.**

7th Grade

Teacher Assigned: Amarello

Required Reading Note: Students **must read and annotate** *Number the Stars* **AND** one book from the “Elective Choice” list before the start of classes.

As you annotate, focus on the following: The narrator’s character development throughout the novel, noting areas and scenes where you see his character progressing/changing/growing. Focus on 2-3 of the main ideas/themes and annotate. Mark areas you struggled with (vocabulary, ambiguity, moments of confusion, etc) and areas you enjoyed/connected with (scenes, quotes, character interactions, etc). Annotations should include underlining/highlighting and margin notes.

Required Core Text

Number the Stars

- **Author:** Lois Lowry
- **ISBN:** 9780547577098
- **Genre:** Historical Fiction
- **Reading Level:** 670L
- **Description/Theme:** The unforgettable Newbery Medal–winning novel from Lois Lowry. As the German troops begin their campaign to "relocate" all the Jews of Denmark, Annemarie Johansen’s family takes in Annemarie’s best friend, Ellen Rosen, and conceals her as part of the family.

Elective Choice Options (Choose One; Annotations not required)

Shadow and Bone*

- **Author:** Leigh Bardugo
- **ISBN:** 9781250027436
- **Genre:** High Fantasy
- **Reading Level:** 800L
- **Description/Theme:** Set in an exquisitely detailed world rooted in Russian lore, *Shadow & Bone* follows Alina, a young woman who discovers she has a dormant power that might be the key to freedom

for her war-torn country. Bardugo seamlessly weaves threads of romance and danger that will hook you in until the very end.

Minecraft: The Island*

- **Author:** Max Brooks
- **ISBN:** 9780399181795
- **Genre:** Fantasy / Gaming
- **Reading Level:** 790L
- **Description/Theme:** The first official Minecraft novel! The author of *World War Z* tells the story of a hero—stranded in the world of Minecraft—who must unravel the secrets of a mysterious island in order to survive.

The Hunger Games*

- **Author:** Suzanne Collins
- **ISBN:** 9780439023528
- **Genre:** Sci-Fi / Dystopia
- **Reading Level:** 810L
- **Description/Theme:** A brutal, vicious read about a competition where there can only be one survivor. Katniss Everdeen is a reluctant tribute in the 74th Hunger Games, volunteering to take the place of her younger sister. As Katniss enters the arena, she must decide how she's going to survive, even if it means killing her fellow contestants.

Percy Jackson: The Lightning Thief*

- **Author:** Rick Riordan
- **ISBN:** 9781368051477
- **Genre:** Fantasy
- **Reading Level:** 680L
- **Description/Theme:** This book is a great beginning to a fantastic series. Young Percy Jackson has just discovered that he is a demigod, and now it's a race against time as he tries to avoid the wrath of Zeus. Filled with action and humor, *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* will have every reader looking to join Camp Half-Blood.

The Mysterious Benedict Society*

- **Author:** Trenton Lee Stewart
 - **ISBN:** 9780316003957
 - **Genre:** Mystery
 - **Reading Level:** 780L
 - **Description/Theme:** Trenton Lee Stewart's quirky storytelling makes this contemporary tale deserving of a spot on shelves beside well-known classics like *The Phantom Tollbooth*. *The Mysterious Benedict Society* is an action-packed story filled with riddles, mysteries, and puzzles that young readers will love solving alongside the characters.
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8th Grade

Teacher Assigned: McKenna

Required Reading Note: Students **must read and annotate** *The Red Badge of Courage* **AND** one book from the “Elective Choice” list before the start of classes.

As you annotate, focus on the following: The narrator’s character development throughout the novel, noting areas and scenes where you see his character progressing/changing/growing. Focus on 2-3 of the main ideas/themes and annotate. Mark areas you struggled with (vocabulary, ambiguity, moments of confusion, etc) and areas you enjoyed/connected with (scenes, quotes, character interactions, etc). Annotations should include underlining/highlighting and margin notes.

Required Core Text

The Red Badge of Courage

- **Author:** Stephen Crane
 - **ISBN:** 978-0143039358
 - **Genre:** Fiction
 - **Reading Level:** 900L
 - **Description/Theme:** A psychological exploration of a young soldier facing the realities and anxieties of war during the American Civil War.
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Elective Choice Options (Choose One; Annotations not required)

Anne of Green Gables*

- **Author:** L.M. Montgomery
- **ISBN:** *Not Provided*
- **Genre:** Fiction
- **Reading Level:** 970L
- **Description/Theme:** Classic coming-of-age story of an orphan girl sent to a middle-aged brother and sister by mistake, who wins their hearts with her spirited imagination.

The Hobbit*

- **Author:** J.R.R. Tolkien
- **ISBN:** *Not Provided*
- **Genre:** Fantasy / Adventure
- **Reading Level:** 1000L
- **Description/Theme:** Quest of a home-loving hobbit to win a share of the treasure guarded by Smaug the dragon.

The Book Thief*

- **Author:** Markus Zusak
- **ISBN:** *Not Provided*
- **Genre:** Historical Fiction
- **Reading Level:** 730L
- **Description/Theme:** Set in Germany during World War II, narrated by Death, centering on a young girl who finds solace by stealing books and sharing them with others.

The Darkside of Nowhere*

- **Author:** Neil Shusterman
- **ISBN:** *Not Provided*
- **Genre:** Science Fiction
- **Reading Level:** 850L
- **Description/Theme:** A sci-fi thriller about a teenager who discovers dark, hidden secrets regarding his town and his own identity.

Fever 1789*

- **Author:** Laurie Halse Anderson
- **ISBN:** *Not Provided*
- **Genre:** Historical Fiction
- **Reading Level:** 580L
- **Description/Theme:** A survival story set during the devastating yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia.

9th Grade

Teacher Assigned: St. Croix

Required Reading Note: CP students **must read and annotate** *Tuesdays with Morrie* before classes begin. Honors students **must read and annotate** *Tuesdays with Morrie* **AND** read one grade-appropriate book of their choice before classes begin.

As you annotate *Tuesdays with Morrie*, focus on the following: The narrator's (Mitch Albom's) character development throughout the novel, noting areas and scenes where you see his character progressing/changing/growing. Focus on 2-3 of the main ideas/themes and annotate. Mark areas you struggled with (vocabulary, ambiguity, moments of confusion, etc) and areas you enjoyed/connected with (scenes, quotes, character interactions, etc). Annotations should include underlining/highlighting and margin notes.

Required Core Text

Tuesdays with Morrie

- **Author:** Mitch Albom
 - **ISBN:** *Not Provided*
 - **Genre:** Literary Nonfiction / Memoir
 - **Reading Level:** 830L
 - **Description/Theme:** A chronicle of time spent by a young man with his dying college professor, passing on final lessons about life, love, and what truly matters.
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10th Grade

Teacher Assigned: TBD

Required Reading Note: Students **must read and annotate** one book from the list before classes begin.

As you annotate, focus on the following: The narrator's character development throughout the novel, noting areas and scenes where you see his character progressing/changing/growing. Focus on 2-3 of the main ideas/themes and annotate. Mark areas you struggled with (vocabulary, ambiguity, moments of confusion, etc) and areas you enjoyed/connected with (scenes, quotes, character interactions, etc). Annotations should include underlining/highlighting and margin notes.

Summer of the Mariposas

- **Author:** Guadalupe Garcia McCall
- **ISBN:** 978-1620140109
- **Reading Level:** 840L
- **Description/Theme:** *Summer of the Mariposas* is a coming-of-age novel that follows five Mexican American sisters on a transformative journey from Texas into Mexico after they discover the body of a drowned man in a river. Inspired by Homer's *Odyssey* and rooted in Mexican folklore and spirituality, the sisters encounter magical beings, family secrets, and personal challenges that test their courage, loyalty, and cultural identity.

Life of Pi

- **Author:** Yann Martel
- **ISBN:** 978-0156027328
- **Reading Level:** 830L
- **Description/Theme:** *Life of Pi* tells the story of Piscine "Pi" Patel, a teenage boy from India who survives a shipwreck and becomes stranded on a lifeboat in the Pacific Ocean with a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. As Pi struggles to survive hunger, fear, and isolation, he develops an uneasy relationship with the tiger that forces him to rely on courage, faith, and ingenuity.

Codename Verity

- **Author:** Elizabeth Wein
- **ISBN:** 978-1423152880
- **Genre:** Historical Fiction / Thriller
- **Reading Level:** 1020L
- **Description/Theme:** A gripping World War II spy novel centering on the intense friendship between a British secret agent and a female pilot after their plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France.

Refugee

- **Author:** Alan Gratz
- **ISBN:** 978-1338324723
- **Genre:** Historical / Contemporary Fiction
- **Reading Level:** 800L
- **Description/Theme:** A powerful novel weaving together the stories of three different children seeking refuge: a Jewish boy escaping Nazi Germany in 1939, a Cuban girl fleeing political unrest in 1994, and a Syrian boy escaping war in 2015.

The Joy Luck Club

- **Author:** Amy Tan
- **ISBN:** 978-0143038092
- **Genre:** Fiction / Cultural Drama
- **Reading Level:** 930L
- **Description/Theme:** An exploration of the complex, tender relationships between four Chinese immigrant mothers and their American-born daughters, connected through the shared histories and secrets of a San Francisco mahjong club.

Dracula

- **Author:** Bram Stoker
 - **ISBN:** 978-0593203385
 - **Genre:** Gothic Horror / Classic Literature
 - **Reading Level:** 990L
 - **Description/Theme:** The foundational epistolary novel documenting Count Dracula's attempt to move from Transylvania to England to find new blood and spread the undead curse, and the battle between him and a small group of adversaries led by Professor Abraham Van Helsing.
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11th Grade

Teacher Assigned: Anderson

Required Reading Note: Students **must read** one book from the “Global Literature & Cultural Identity Selections” list before the start of classes. As you read, annotate any changes the character undergoes, and underline important challenges, choices, influences, and moments of growth that help shape the character's journey. These notes will help you trace the hero’s journey when we return in the fall.

Global Literature & Cultural Identity Selections

Enrique's Journey

- **Author:** Sonia Nazario
- **ISBN:** 978-0812971781
- **Reading Level:** 830L
- **Description/Theme:** *Enrique's Journey* follows the true story of Enrique, a Honduran teenager who undertakes a dangerous journey to the United States in search of his mother, who emigrated years earlier to find work and support her family. Traveling atop freight trains through Mexico, Enrique faces violence, hunger, exploitation, and the constant threat of death while confronting the emotional consequences of family separation caused by poverty and migration.

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I am Malala

- **Author:** Malala Yousafzai
- **ISBN:** 978-0316322409
- **Reading Level:** 1000L
- **Description/Theme:** *I Am Malala* is the memoir of Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani activist who advocates for girls' education in the face of oppression by the Taliban. The book recounts her childhood in Pakistan's Swat Valley, her father's influence as an educator, and her growing commitment to speaking publicly about the importance of education and women's rights. After surviving an assassination attempt by the Taliban, Malala became an international symbol of resilience and activism.

The Alchemist

- **Author:** Paulo Coelho
- **ISBN:** 978-0062315007
- **Reading Level:** 910L
- **Description/Theme:** *The Alchemist* follows Santiago, a young Andalusian shepherd who embarks on a journey from Spain to Egypt after dreaming of hidden treasure near the pyramids. Along the way, he encounters mentors, challenges, and spiritual lessons that encourage him to pursue his "Personal Legend," or true purpose in life.

Patron Saints of Nothing

- **Author:** Randy Ribay
- **ISBN:** 978-0525554929
- **Reading Level:** 840L
- **Description/Theme:** *Patron Saints of Nothing* follows Filipino American teenager Jay Reguero as he travels to the Philippines to investigate the death of his cousin Jun, who was killed during the country's violent anti-drug campaign. Blending mystery, family drama, and coming-of-age themes, the novel explores identity, grief, justice, and the complexities of cultural connection.

AP English Language

Teacher Assigned: Cleghorn

Classroom Notice: All assignments were handed out before the end of the school year. If you need another copy, please email Mrs. Cleghorn. Note specific guidelines for *How to Read Non-Fiction Like a Professor*.

Due date: First day of class

Required Course Texts

Thank You For Arguing (Fourth Edition)

- **Publisher/Imprint:** Broadway Books
- **Author:** Jay Heinrichs
- **ISBN:** 978-0593237380
- **Genre:** Non-Fiction
- **Description/Theme:** A guide to the art of rhetoric, teaching how to use persuasion techniques (ethos, pathos, logos) to improve daily communication, resolve conflicts, and win arguments. It highlights the importance of focusing on the future (deliberative argument) and using empathy to connect with audiences, rather than just winning points.

The Best American Essays of the Century

- **Publisher/Imprint:** Mariner Press
- **Author:** Joyce Carol Oates
- **ISBN:** 978-0618155873
- **Genre:** Non-Fiction
- **Description/Theme:** A curated collection of 55 landmark 20th-century American essays (1901–1997). It functions as a historical, personal, and political mosaic of the era, focusing on the evolution of the essay form, intellectual thought, and cultural identity.

How to Read Non-Fiction Like a Professor

- **NOTE:** NOT SUMMER READING. WILL NEED ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS.
- **Author:** Thomas Foster
- **ISBN:** 978-0062895813
- **Genre:** Non-Fiction
- **Description/Theme:** This book teaches readers to move beyond passive consumption by evaluating nonfiction through a critical lens, focusing on structure, author persona, and evidence. It emphasizes identifying an author's purpose, questioning bias, checking evidence, and understanding the rhetorical strategies used to persuade readers.

12th Grade

Teacher Assigned: Cleghorn

Required Reading Note: Students **must read and annotate** one book from the list below before classes begin.

As you annotate, focus on the following: The narrator's character development throughout the novel, noting areas and scenes where you see his character progressing/changing/growing. Focus on 2-3 of the main ideas/themes and annotate. Mark areas you struggled with (vocabulary, ambiguity, moments of confusion, etc) and areas you enjoyed/connected with (scenes, quotes, character interactions, etc). Annotations should include underlining/highlighting and margin notes.

Required Literature Selections

1984

- **Author:** George Orwell
- **ISBN:** 978-0451524935
- **Genre:** Dystopian
- **Reading Level:** 1090L
- **Description/Theme:** Winston Smith toes the Party line, rewriting history to satisfy the demands of the Ministry of Truth. With each lie he writes, Winston grows to hate the Party that seeks power for its own sake and persecutes those who dare to commit thoughtcrimes. But as he starts to think for himself, Winston can't escape the fact that Big Brother is always watching...

Wuthering Heights

- **Author:** Emily Brontë
- **ISBN:** 978-0141040356
- **Genre:** Victorian Gothic
- **Reading Level:** 870-880L
- **Description/Theme:** A Gothic novel detailing the intense, destructive love between Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff, an orphan raised alongside her on the Yorkshire moors. Catherine marries Edgar Linton for social status, driving a spurned Heathcliff to wreak vengeance on the next generation of Earnshaws and Lintons before dying, obsessed with reuniting with her.

Never Let Me Go

- **Author:** Kazuo Ishiguro
- **ISBN:** 978-1400078776
- **Genre:** Dystopian
- **Reading Level:** 970L
- **Description/Theme:** A novel narrated by Kathy H., a "carer" looking back on her childhood at an idyllic English boarding school, Hailsham. Kathy, along with friends Ruth and Tommy, is a clone raised solely to donate their vital organs to non-clones, ultimately "completing" (dying) in their early adulthood.

A Tale of Two Cities

- **Author:** Charles Dickens
- **ISBN:** 978-0451530578
- **Genre:** Historical
- **Reading Level:** 990L
- **Description/Theme:** A historical novel set in London and Paris during the French Revolution, focusing on themes of sacrifice, resurrection, and class struggle. It follows the lives of French aristocrat Charles Darnay, his wife Lucie Manette, and the cynical English barrister Sydney Carton.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time

- **Author:** Mark Haddon
 - **ISBN:** 978-1400032716
 - **Genre:** Contemporary Mystery
 - **Reading Level:** 1090L
 - **Description/Theme:** This book follows Christopher Boone, a 15-year-old with behavioral difficulties often identified as Asperger's syndrome, who investigates the murder of a neighbor's dog. He uncovers family lies, the truth about his mother, and travels alone to London, gaining independence and proving his bravery.
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AP English Literature

Teacher Assigned: Cleghorn

Classroom Notice: All assignments were handed out before the end of the school year. If you need another copy, please email Mrs. Cleghorn. Note specific guidelines for *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. **Due date:** First day of class

Required Course Texts

Invisible Man

- **Author:** Ralph Ellison
- **ISBN:** 978-0679732761
- **Genre:** Social Commentary
- **Reading Level:** 950L
- **Description/Theme:** A 1952 novel following an unnamed Black narrator's journey through a racially divided America, exploring his "invisibility" caused by society's refusal to see him. From the segregated South to Harlem, he navigates betrayals in academia, industry, and politics (the Brotherhood), eventually embracing his identity while living in an underground cellar.

How to Read Literature Like a Professor

- **NOTE:** NOT SUMMER READING. WILL NEED ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS.
- **Author:** Thomas Foster
- **ISBN:** 978-0062301673
- **Genre:** Non-Fiction
- **Description/Theme:** A guide to analyzing literature by recognizing common patterns, symbols, and intertextual references. It argues that most stories are built on shared tropes—such as quests, communion, and seasonal symbolism—allowing readers to move beyond plot to understand deeper thematic meanings.