

Holy Cross
English Department
Summer Reading Lists
For September 2020



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Holy Cross High School
September 2020 Freshman English
Summer Reading Assignment

As part of the educational program at Holy Cross High School, **all students who are entering the 9th grade in September 2020 are required to read** the following books during the summer recess:

Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway

I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai

(Full text version, not young reader's version.)

Students who are enrolled in an **English 9 Honors class must also read:**

Dragonsong By Anne McCaffrey

There are three basic reasons for this activity:

- a) to improve reading skills
- b) to increase the student's knowledge base
- c) to prepare students for their English teacher's introductory lessons

Please note:

- All students will take the Summer Reading Exam in English class within the first few days of school. The exam will incorporate explicit elements of theme and author intention, so students should take responsible and thorough notes on the texts while they are reading.
- The Summer Reading Exam grade counts as a significant percentage of all students' first quarter grade in English class; therefore, all must take this assignment seriously.
- Students will find during the course of the year that the above texts will be valuable as response material for work incorporating the Common Core State Standards and for practicing the skills needed for the Regents Exam in English.

Holy Cross High School
September 2020 Sophomore English
Summer Reading Assignment

As part of the educational program at Holy Cross High School, **all students who are entering the 10th grade in September 2020 are required to read** the following books during the summer recess:

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie
Brother, I'm Dying by Edwidge Danticat

Students who are enrolled in an **English 10 Honors class must also read:**

In The Lake of The Woods - Tim O'Brien

There are three basic reasons for this activity:

- a) to improve reading skills
- b) to increase the students' knowledge base
- c) to prepare students for their English teacher's introductory lessons

Please note:

- All students will take the Summer Reading Exam in English class within the first few days of school. The exam will incorporate explicit elements of theme and author intention, so students should take responsible and thorough notes on the texts while they are reading.
- The Summer Reading Exam grade counts as a significant percentage of all students' first quarter grade in English class; therefore, all must take this assignment seriously.
- Students will find during the course of the year that the above texts will be valuable as response material for work incorporating the Common Core State Standards and for practicing the skills needed for the Regents Exam in English.

Holy Cross High School
September 2019 Junior English
Summer Reading Assignment

As part of the educational program at Holy Cross High School, **all students who are entering the 11th grade in September 2019 are required to read** the following books during the summer recess:

A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry
My Beloved World by Sonia Sotomayor

Students who are enrolled in an **English 11 Honors class must also read:**

A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway

There are three basic reasons for this activity:

- a) to improve reading skills
- b) to increase the student's knowledge base
- c) to prepare students for their English teacher's introductory lessons

Please note:

- All students will take the Summer Reading Exam in English class within the first few days of school. The exam will incorporate explicit elements of theme and author intention, so students should take responsible and thorough notes on the texts while they are reading.
- The Summer Reading Exam grade counts as a significant percentage of all students' first quarter grade in English class; therefore, all must take this assignment seriously.
- Students will find during the course of the year that the above texts will be valuable as response material for work incorporating the Common Core State Standards and for practicing the skills needed for the Regents Exam in English.

Holy Cross High School
September 2020 Senior English
Summer Reading Assignment

As part of the educational program at Holy Cross High School, **all students who are entering 12th grade in September 2020 are required to read** the following two books during the summer recess:

The Island of Doctor Moreau by H.G. Wells
A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah

Students who are entering **College English in September 2020 must instead read the following three *different* books:**

A Brief History of Time by Stephen Hawking
The Screwtape Letters - C.S. Lewis
Shakespeare - The World As Stage by Bill Bryson

There are three basic reasons for this activity:

- a) to improve reading skills
- b) to increase the student's knowledge base
- c) to prepare students for their English teacher's introductory lessons

Please note:

- All students will take the Summer Reading Exam in English class within the first few days of school. The exam will incorporate explicit elements of theme and author intention, so students should take responsible and thorough notes on the texts while they are reading.
- The Summer Reading Exam grade counts as a significant percentage of all students' first quarter grade in English class; therefore, all must take this assignment seriously.
- Regardless of which senior English course(s) students are taking, the above texts all cover the breadth of contextual and thematic elements that all courses and electives have in common. Those enrolled in genre-specific electives should pay particular attention to the authors' execution of genre expectations and detail. ***The AP classes reading lists are separate and different from those above.***

Holy Cross High School
September 2020 AP Literature and Composition
Summer Reading Assignment

Seniors registered for *AP Literature and Composition*: There are three books that you will be required to read. These books will form the core of the class work and discussions for the first semester. *This list is necessarily different from College English and the AP Language and Composition class lists.*

Summer Reading required books:

- *1984* by George Orwell
- *A Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley
- *A Day in The Life of Ivan Denisovich* by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

There are also books that you've read in past English classes that you should review to re-familiarize yourself with specific themes. The themes explored in these works will come up in class discussions as well as (possibly) the AP exam itself.

- *A Raisin in The Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry
- *King Lear* by William Shakespeare
- *The Lord of The Flies* by William Golding
- The Advanced Placement test is a challenging exam. Naturally, reading is an important part of the test. The most significant purpose for reading to prepare for the AP Lit test is for the student choice free-response question. For this question you'll be asked to examine how a specific theme works in one novel or play that you closely read both in class and independently with an to increase your familiarity with literature from different eras and genres and to improve your critical close-reading skills; the more books you have time to read, the better.
- You'll want to critically read them for comprehension and analysis, but you don't necessarily need to focus equally on every book you read.
- Students will find during the course of the year that the above texts will be valuable as response material for work incorporating the Advanced Placement Standards.