



HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE"

English and ESL Department
36 Crawfords Corner Road
Holmdel, New Jersey 07733



Holmdel High School Summer Reading Assignment (Grades 9–12) For College Prep (CP) and Honors English Classes

Purpose:

Summer reading helps maintain and strengthen your reading, thinking, and writing skills over the break while exposing you to diverse voices and engaging stories. Your reading will also prepare you for class discussions and assessments at the start of the school year.

Assignment Requirements:

- **Academic English Course Students:**
Select **one book** from your grade-level list to read over the summer (see list below).
- **Honors English Course Students:**
Select and read **two books** from your grade-level list (see list below).. Choose books that reflect a range of themes or genres.

Assessment:

During the **first week of school**, you will complete an **in-class writing assessment** based on your summer reading. This assessment will count as a minor grade and will allow you to demonstrate your ability to:

- Analyze literary elements such as theme, character, and conflict
- Support your ideas with evidence from the text
- Express your thoughts clearly in writing



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Sample Writing Prompts:

Your prompt may resemble one of the following:

1. **Theme Analysis:**
Discuss a central theme in your book and how the author develops it throughout the text.
2. **Character Development:**
Choose a main character and analyze how they change throughout the novel. What events or relationships contribute to their development?
3. **Literary Connection:**
Compare a key idea or conflict in the book to something from your own life, another work of literature, or a current event. How does this connection deepen your understanding of the book?
4. **Author’s Craft:**
How does the author’s use of literary devices (e.g., symbolism, imagery, setting) enhance meaning in the story?

Additional Notes:

- You should **annotate and/or take handwritten notes** as you read to prepare for the writing assignment. These will be collected on the first day of class.
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- Be ready to **discuss your book(s)** in class.
- **You must choose a book from the curated list below for your appropriate class. See the list below.**

Assignments for AP Courses are linked separately on the [English Department Website](#)



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Book Lists By Grade Level			
Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English 9: <i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time</i> - Mark Haddon <i>The Namesake</i> by Jhumpa Lahiri <i>The Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak <i>Angela's Ashes</i> by Frank McCourt Honors English 9: <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury <i>The Rag and Bone Shop</i> by Robert Cormier <i>Catch-22</i> by John Heller <i>My Lady Jane</i> by Cynthia Hand, Brodi Ashton, & Jodi Meadows	English 10: <i>The Bonesetter's Daughter</i>-Amy Tan <i>Me Talk Pretty One Day</i> - David Sedaris <i>All My Rage</i> - Sabaa Tahir <i>Nine Stories</i> - J.D. Salinger <i>A Separate Peace</i> -John Knowles Honors English 10: <i>The Glass Castle</i> by Jeannette Walls <i>Educated</i> by Tara Westover <i>Into the Wild</i> by Jon Krakauer <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> by John Steinbeck	English 11: <i>Klara and the Sun</i>-Kazu Ishiguro <i>The Lincoln Highway</i> - Amor Towles <i>Go Set a Watchman</i>-Harper Lee <i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i> - Anne Frank <i>In The Shadow of Man</i>- Jane Goodall <i>Tuesdays With Morrie</i> - Mitch Albom Honors English 11: <i>Remarkably Bright Creatures</i> by Shelby Van Pelt <i>Firekeeper's Daughter</i> - Angeline Boulley <i>The Lovely Bones</i> - Alice Sebold <i>We Are Displaced</i> - Malala Yousafzai	English 12: <i>The Secret History</i> - Donna Tartt <i>The Overstory</i> - Richard Powers <i>A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius</i> - Dave Eggers <i>Always, Never, Sometimes</i>- Adi Alsaid <i>Sum it Up</i>- Pat Summitt <i>The Martian</i> - Andy Weir Honors English 12: <i>When Breath Becomes Air</i> - Paul Kalanithi <i>The Blithedale Romance</i> - Nathaniel Hawthorne <i>The Things We Cannot Say</i> - Kelly Rimmer <i>The Road</i> - Cormac McCarthy

Disclaimer: These books have not been vetted or approved by the Holmdel Board of Education and are suggested titles for students to read over the summer. They come highly recommended from the English department teachers. We recommend that parents collaborate with their children when choosing their summer reading titles. If you have concerns about a title, please contact Dr. Arciero, K-12 Supervisor of English & ESL, at jarciero@holmdelschools.org