



**La Salle College Preparatory
Summer Reading 2025**

Below, you'll find the required summer reading for select courses. If you do not see a course you've been assigned listed below, summer reading is not required for the course.

English Department

English I, English I Honors, English II, English III, English IV: No summer reading.

Summer Reading for English II Honors

Welcome to English 2 Honors! I'm Mr. Norman, your new word-hoard warrior (you'll get it after you read about kennings). You worked hard to earn this opportunity and I'm proud of you. Your freshman year teachers did a great job preparing you for your next adventure, so don't be too nervous! I'll see you in August and HAGS!

To prepare for the first unit, please do the following:

- **Print** (if needed), **read**, and **annotate** the [Unit 1 Reader](#). Do not do this all at once! The reading is dense; split it up into chunks and space out your reading sessions. I recommend using the [Pomodoro Technique](#). This is your opportunity to develop effective reading habits before the school year begins.
- Be prepared for a quiz on the first day of class on both *Beowulf* and the background/context information.

Please contact Mr. Norman at nnorman@lasallehs.org with questions.

English III Honors:

Welcome to English III Honors! To get started, we are going to read two classic novels from the American literary canon. As you read these novels and answer the required questions, think about how the novels reflect on American life and how that compares with how *you* think of American life.

Read each of the following novels and answer the corresponding questions with a paragraph or two. This is not meant to be a formal composition/essay, and I will not assess it as such. What I am looking for is your ability to provide relevant quoted material that supports your salient, thorough and thoughtful answers. Make sure you provide page numbers for the quoted material.

a. **F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*:**

1. Describe the irony of the title of the book given the evidence throughout the novel (consider Gatsby's actions and what others say about him). Use quoted material to support your points.
2. Tom Buchanan is a foil to Gatsby. They are similar in many ways yet considerably different. Compare the two characters for their similarities and differences – use quoted material to support your points.

b. **J.D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye*:** Are the concerns/problems that face Holden Caulfield relevant to the contemporary American teenager?

1. Supply three examples (quoted) of Holden's sarcasm/humor. Examine the sarcasm/humor and answer the following questions about them:
 - a. What does the quoted example tell us about his character?
 - b. Is there any truth to what he is saying?

You will be submitting your written work via **Schoology** by the first day of school, **August 18, 2025** Please do not attach links into Schoology. Instead, paste your work directly into the submission box. Thank you.

Contact Mr. David Soltis a dsoltis@lasallehs.org with questions.

AP Language & Composition:

Welcome to AP Language and Composition! To get started, we are going to read a non-fiction book and four essays that have to do with food, language and culture. As you read these works and answer the required questions, think about how you use and value food and language in your daily lives. Your thoughtful consideration of these questions will go a long way regarding your success in this class. This assignment is not meant to be a formal composition/essay, and I will not grade it as such. There will, however, be a test on the readings.

First, read the following essays (attached here: [Essays on Language](#)) and answer the corresponding questions with one paragraph each.

- A. "How to Tame a Wild Tongue" (Anzaldua)
 - a. To what degree does Anzaldua revere language? Supply quoted material to support your points.
- B. "Lost in Translation" (Hoffman)
 - a. To what degree does Hoffman revere language? Supply quoted material to support your points.
- C. "If Black English Isn't a Language, Then Tell Me, What Is?" (Baldwin)
 - a. To what degree does Baldwin revere language? Supply quoted material to support your points.
- D. "On Truth and Lies in a Nonmoral Sense" (Nietzsche)
 - a. To what degree does Nietzsche revere language? Supply quoted material to support your points.

Secondly, read [Day of Honey](#) by Annia Ciezadlo. Answer the following questions.

- A. One important theme of *Day of Honey* is the question of home. Do you agree with Annia that "home could be something you made instead of the place where you lived" (p. 24)? Is home a fixed location, or is it a movable feast?
- B. According to Annia, "My idea of paradise is more like Mutanabbi Street, in Baghdad's old city: an entire city street with no cars, just books and cafes" (p. 105). How does Mutanabbi Street demonstrate Iraqis' love for the written word? What solace does Annia find on Mutanabbi Street, and why must she eventually stop going there? Have you ever encountered a city, street, or place that felt like your idea of paradise?
- C. Discuss the unique challenges that women—the "face of Iraq"—must contend with (p. 140). Why is Dr. Salama, a popular female politician, a complicated spokeswoman for women's rights in Iraq? What does Annia learn about Iraqi women and politics from her conversations with Dr. Salama? How did you react to these events in the book?
- D. Consider the strong personality of Umm Hassane, Annia's mother-in-law. What are Annia's first impressions of Umm Hassane, and how does Annia's opinion of her mother-in-law evolve over the course of the book? What can we learn about Umm Hassane's character from her cooking style? How does Annia find "the real story" of the war by cooking with Umm Hassane (p. 275)? Does Umm Hassane remind you of anyone you know?

You will be submitting your written work via **Schoology** by the first day of school, **August 18, 2025**. Please attach a Google.doc into Schoology.

Contact Mr. David Soltis at dsoltis@lasallehs.org with questions

English IV Honors Summer Reading and Writing

Texts: *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley
After Many a Summer Dies the Swan, Aldous Huxley

Introduction: Both texts introduce the problem of authenticity of a human experience or identity. Perhaps secondarily, both involve the human fear of death, or more accurately, annihilation [or irrelevance] of consciousness.

Assignment: Read closely and annotate both texts and answer the following prompt using details from each. Write no more than four double-spaced pages, so be concise. Submit this a hard copy on the first day of classes (August 19, 2025). Anything submitted later will suffer a substantial penalty.

In the context of the assigned literature, respond to this **prompt**: What does death *mean* to human beings.

E-mail me with questions, comments...

E-mail: rlaird@lasallehs.org **Emails will be checked sporadically throughout summer; I will be unavailable from July 11-August 7. Any emails inquiring about the assignment MUST be received by July 10, 2025.**

AP Literature and Composition summer reading and writing:

Texts: *All the Pretty Horses*, Cormac McCarthy

Frankenstein, Mary Shelley

After Many a Summer Dies the Swan, Aldous Huxley

Introduction: All three texts introduce the problem of authenticity of a human experience or identity. Perhaps secondarily, all three involve the human fear of death, or more accurately, annihilation [or irrelevance] of consciousness.

Assignment: Read closely and annotate all three texts and defend the following statement using details from each. Write no more than four double-spaced pages, so be concise. Submit this as a hard copy on the first day of classes (August 19, 2025). Anything submitted later will suffer a substantial penalty.

In the context of the assigned literature, defend this statement: The original is always elusive.

Finally, be prepared for a reading quiz on the first full day of class in the fall. A more substantial assessment will follow within the first few class meetings.

E-mail me with questions, comments...

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Science Department

BOTH AP Physics classes (Mechanics and E&M) as an OPTIONAL summer reading workbook/Calc Practice:

Quick Calculus: A Self-Teaching Guide, 2nd Edition

by Daniel Kleppner , Norman Ramsey

ISBN-13: 978-0471827221

ISBN-10: 0471827223

<https://www.amazon.com/Quick-Calculus-Self-Teaching-Guide-2nd/dp/0471827223/>

Complete through page 185 if able.

Social Studies Department

AP European History

Book: *A World Lit Only By Fire* by William Manchester

ISBN-10 : 0316545562

ISBN-13 : 978-0316545563

[A World Lit Only by Fire: The Medieval Mind and the Renaissance: Portrait of an Age: Manchester, William: 9780316545563: Amazon.com: Books](#)

No summer reading for the following departments:

Religious Studies

Visual and Performing Arts

Physical Education and Health

Mathematics

Tech and Engineering

World Languages