

Summer assignment for **English 9 Honors (9th grade)**

Due Date: **The first day of school**

Teacher: Mrs. Rauscher

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English Department Summer Reading & Writing Requirement

The summer reading requirement is an important feature of an English course. It serves to keep one as an active reader, a thoughtful writer and to prepare one for course assignments.

Educational research shows that students lose some of their critical reading skills over the summer if they do not practice. Students who read during the summer retain more of what they learn and achieve higher scores on reading assessments. Additionally, summer reading programs allow schools to promote the value of reading while exploring common themes students will study throughout the school year.

-The summer reading novels will be tied to an assessment or two in the first few weeks of school, so it is important to read carefully and think critically about all you are assigned.

Sylvania Northview provides our students with a reason to keep reading. Though we won't assign six books for students to read over the summer, each year students will be required to read one, two, or three books (depending on the class they are enrolled in). These novels are chosen by the English department. Students should understand that their early grades will reflect the amount of care that they take for summer reading.

Modern Coming of Age Novels (Pick 1):

[Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe](#)

by Benjamin Alire Saenz

[Poet X](#) by Elizabeth Acevedo

[Secret Life of Bees](#) by Sue Monk Kid

[Firekeeper's Daughter](#) by Angeline Boulley

[The Map of Stars and Salt](#) by Zeyn Joukhadar

AP List Novel:

[To Kill a Mockingbird](#) by Harper Lee

You must complete the following:

1. Select and read a novel from the Modern Coming of Age Novels
2. Complete the Modern Novel Assignment [pick one]
3. Read *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
4. Complete the *To Kill a Mockingbird* reflection assignment

Be prepared to take an assessment on *To Kill a Mockingbird* and discuss your chosen modern coming-of-age novel in the first week.

The reading and writing assignment is **MANDATORY**. Your advanced work this summer will set the perfect tone for a great first six weeks and prepare you to contribute to in-class Discussions/projects and write insightful essays. **Please have these ready by the first day of the 2023-2024 school year.**

- *Be prepared to complete a reading assessment/assignment over the required text upon your return to school.
- *Read the novel(s) for the course that you will be enrolled in next fall.
- * Complete the attached assignment and turn it in on the first day of school.
- *Use of A.I. under any circumstances is considered plagiarism and will earn a 0 if detected.

DO NOT HANDWRITE. THIS MUST BE TYPED. DO NOT PRINT.

Assignment Details - From the Modern Coming of Age Novel - SELECT ONE

Directions: Books can open our imagination, expand our knowledge, and inspire us to try new things, but we don't always have or make time to fully explore the world of the stories we read. For this project, explore the ideas below and then choose **one** that interests and excites you. Be creative and have fun! **PICK ONE**

Presenting Assignments

Book in a bag – Choose 10 items that represent people, places, and events in the book. Place them in a bag. Write a

description of each item and how it relates to the book on 10 note cards. Must present to the class in the first week of school. Please schedule with Mrs. Rauscher at the start of school for a presentation day and time.

Setting/costume design – Draw or create a pocostume/setting design for 3 characters or 3 settings. Consider colors, shapes, layout, patterns, etc. when designing. Make sure they resemble the character's attitude and traits for the costume. Explain why you made certain decisions for costume/setting design on notecards. Must present to the class in the first week of school. Please schedule with Mrs. Rauscher at the start of school for a presentation day and time. Must be completed on poster or sketch paper.

Non-Presenting Assignments

Re-story Time and Place: Write a new version of your book (2-3 pages) or a specific scene and set it at a different time. For example, you might re-story a work of historical fiction in the present. Or you might write a new version of your book or a scene by placing the characters in a new setting to see how they behave and interact with one another. Should not be a summary. Must use narrative elements like setting, characterization, beginning, middle, and end. Must be typed: Times New Roman, Double Space, 12 pt font.

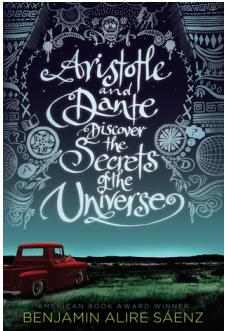
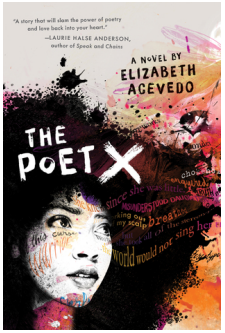
Comic Book–Write a comic book version of an important scene. Illustrate and color. The scene depicted must have a clear beginning, middle, and end. Write a 3 paragraph explanation of your artistic choices and how they relate to the novel. Must be completed on poster or sketch paper. Paragraphs must be typed: Times New Roman, Double Space, 12 pt font.

Assignment Details - To Kill a Mockingbird - SELECT ONE

Select one of the following questions to answer in a thoughtful one to two-paragraph response. Responses must highlight an understanding of the text and include textual evidence (i.e. quotes from the text). Must be typed: Times New Roman, Double Space, 12 pt font.

1. The novel begins as the voice of a mature adult recalling events from childhood and sometimes shifts to the point of view of a 6-year-old. Did you notice the shifts occurring? If so, did you find them distracting? What advantages did the author have as a result of being able to move from one perspective to the other?
2. The story is set in a small town in southern Alabama during the Depression of the 1930s. What aspects of the story seem to be particular to that place and time? What aspects of the story are universal, cutting across time and place? In what ways are the people you know today similar to and different from those in Maycomb?
3. Many readers see *To Kill a Mockingbird* as having two parts, one centering on Boo Radley and the other on the trial of Tom Robinson. How were the two stories brought together at the end of the novel?
4. Language is a powerful tool in this novel. The language of the children, the eloquence of Atticus, and the language of the townspeople reflect their attitudes and often their prejudices. What lessons does Atticus attempt to teach Scout about the use of racial slurs?

Modern Coming-of-Age Novels (Pick 1):

	<p><u>Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe</u> by Benjamin Alire Sáenz</p> <p>Common Sense Media: 14+ *LGBTQIA+</p>	<p>Ari and Dante's chance meeting at a swimming pool one summer day serves as an unlikely watershed in both of their lives. Ari, an introvert with a troubled family life, and Dante, an artistic free spirit struggling with his own identity, appear on the surface to have little in common. But their ensuing friendship is an intense and life-changing one. This tender and layered presentation of young love has made author Benjamin Alire Sáenz a critical darling, and with good reason. It may be set in the 1980s, but this story about two young men grappling with masculinity, sexuality, and ethnic identity is nevertheless a timely one for the 2020s.</p>
	<p><u>Poet X</u> by Elizabeth Acevedo</p> <p>Common Sense Media: 13+ *In Verse Form</p>	<p><i>The Poet X</i> is prominent slam poet Elizabeth Acevedo's first YA novel, and her turn to the form brings fiery adolescent Xiomara Batista onto the page. Lorded over by her exceedingly pious and strict mother, fed up with the catcalling and sexual harassment of the boys in her Harlem neighborhood, and wrestling with feelings for a boy in her biology class, Xiomara feels like there's no way to have her voice heard. Until she's invited to her school's poetry slam club. At first reluctant, Xiomara slowly grows in confidence and finds a freedom that's more than anything she could've hoped for. <i>The Poet X</i> is for anyone, poetry fan or not, but is a particular standout for girls running the gauntlet of being a teenager in the 21st century.</p>
	<p><u>Secret Life of Bees</u> by Sue Monk Kidd</p> <p>Common Sense Media: 13+</p>	<p>Set in South Carolina in 1964, <i>The Secret Life of Bees</i> tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina--a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters, Lily is introduced to their mesmerizing world of bees and honey, and the Black Madonna. This is a remarkable novel about divine female power, a story women will share and pass on to their daughters for years to come</p>



[Firekeeper's Daughter](#) by Angeline Boulley

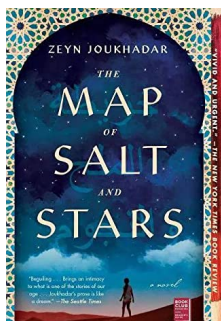
Common Sense Media: 15+
*Mention of Violence and other adult themes

As a biracial, unenrolled tribal member and the product of a scandal, eighteen-year-old Daunis Fontaine has never quite fit in, both in her hometown and on the nearby Ojibwe reservation. Daunis dreams of studying medicine, but when her family is struck by tragedy, she puts her future on hold to care for her fragile mother.

The only bright spot is meeting Jamie, the charming new recruit on her brother Levi's hockey team. Yet even as Daunis falls for Jamie, certain details don't add up and she senses the dashing hockey star is hiding something. Everything comes to light when Daunis witnesses a shocking murder, thrusting her into the heart of a criminal investigation.

Reluctantly, Daunis agrees to go undercover but secretly pursues her own investigation, tracking down the criminals with her knowledge of chemistry and traditional medicine. But the deceptions—and deaths—keep piling up and soon the threat strikes too close to home.

Now, Daunis must learn what it means to be a strong Anishinaabe kwe (Ojibwe woman) and how far she'll go to protect her community, even if it tears apart the only world she's ever known.



[The Map of Stars and Salt](#) by Zeyn Joukhadar

Common Sense Media: Not Listed
*Mentions of War and Violence

This “beguiling” (*Seattle Times*) and stunning novel begins in the summer of 2011. Nour has just lost her father to cancer, and her mother moves Nour and her sisters from New York City back to Syria to be closer to their family. In order to keep her father's spirit alive as she adjusts to her new home, Nour tells herself their favorite story—the tale of Rawiya, a twelfth-century girl who disguised herself as a boy in order to apprentice herself to a famous mapmaker.

But the Syria Nour's parents knew is changing, and it isn't long before the war reaches their quiet Homs neighborhood. When a shell destroys Nour's house and almost takes her life, she and her family are forced to choose: stay and risk more violence or flee across seven countries of the Middle East and North Africa in search of safety—along the very route Rawiya and her mapmaker took eight hundred years before in their quest to chart the world. As Nour's family decides to take the risk, their journey becomes more and more dangerous, until they face a choice that could mean the family will be separated forever.

Following alternating timelines and a pair of unforgettable heroines coming of age in perilous times, *The Map of Salt and Stars* is the “magical and heart-wrenching” (*Christian Science Monitor*) story of one girl telling herself the legend of another and learning that, if you listen to your OWN voice, some things can never be lost.