



Girls' High 9th/10th Summer Reading 2025

Hello, Gazelles! This summer, the English department would like to encourage you to read. We would like you to enjoy two books assigned to you. This will be your first grade of the year to start off strong! Each teacher will be collecting your work when the school year begins, so have it ready. Statistics show that, on average, students [lose 20% of the reading gains](#) they made over the school year if they do not continue to read over the summer.

Therefore, everyone must read **two (2)** books this summer — a classic and a contemporary work of literature — and complete a project for each book (to be submitted the first week of school). You will **pick one book from each of these columns** to read:

Classics List	Contemporary Fiction List
<i>Lord of the Flies</i> by William Golding <i>The Piano Lesson</i> by August Wilson <i>Twelfth Night</i> by William Shakespeare <i>Passing</i> by Nella Larsen <i>The House on Mango Street</i> by Sandra Cisneros	<i>How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents</i> by Julia Alvarez <i>The Joy Luck Club</i> by Amy Tan <i>Persepolis</i> Marjane Satrapi <i>Annabelle</i> by Ruby Jean Jensen <i>Let Me Hear a Rhyme</i> by Tiffany D Jackson

For these books, you may read the linked PDFs above, or you can find hard copies of the book at the [Free Library of Philadelphia](#). See [here for information](#) on how to obtain a library card!

If you are interested in reading a second book of your own choice, please contact Ms. Jones (cajones@philasd.org) or Dr. Stone (mstone@philasd.org) to check with them first. Of course, you are welcome to read more than two books!



Summer Reading Response Project

After reading, complete **one project for each book you read**. Each project is worth 50 points. For each book, you will **pick one of the six options below** and complete that assignment in response to the book:

1. **Interview a character**

Interview a character from your book. You might interview a character from your book. Write at least ten questions (probably more) that will give the character the opportunity to discuss his/her thoughts and feelings about his/her role in the story. There are many different ways you can choose to present your interview. You can present it in written format, record it on video, perform it live – or come up with another way.

2. **Create a diary**

Create a diary kept by a main character in your story. Write a diary that one of the book's main characters might have written surrounding the book's events. It should be done from that person's point of view revealing all the major events in his/her life and his/her feelings about these events. Include their hopes, dreams, problems, concerns and frustrations. Remember that the character's thoughts and feelings are very important in a diary. The entries in your diary should stretch out over the entire period of time that the novel covers -- from the beginning of the novel to the end. Write dates for the entries, if possible. Create a cover for your diary. Organize the diary – make sure it is in proper order. On the first page, include an information sheet identifying the full name of the character, his/her age or birth date (if known), where he/she lives, and any other important information. Don't forget to include the title and author of the book here.

3. **Write a Letter**

Write a letter and address it to one of the characters in the book. There are many things you can include in the letter. You might ask that person questions, object to a situation, or make a complaint or a suggestion. You could include advice about his/her personal life. The book you're reading becomes a #1 best seller on the New York Times list. You will write a letter to Universal Studios Production Company trying to get them interested in making your book into a movie. Describe why the story would make a good film. Use the characters, conflicts, events, tragedies, adventure, or other notable items to enhance your description. Include a location for filming and list the actors you believe would be best to play the various roles. For this assignment, you should only use books that have not been made into films.

4. **Literary Comic Strip**

Create a comic strip with illustrations and dialogue. The comic strip **MUST** be based on a summer reading text (which must be named). Retell the most important events in a comic strip or graphic novel format. The strip may be hand-drawn or created digitally. Illustrations must be the original design of the creator. Hand-drawn



comic strips must be outlined in black ink. All stray marks must be erased. This project should be 3-10 panels and should fit on one page.

5. **Map It**

You can try this if the book you read contains a number of locations within a town, country, or geographical area. You can create a map. Make a list of all the locations - houses, stores, streets, parks, lakes, or whatever else that is revealed in your book. Draw the map showing a bird's eye view of the area. Label each location. Include a legend with a list of all the locations. Include a description of important events that occur at each location. Make sure your map has lots of details and is both colorful and large.

6. **Vlog or Podcast**

Create a Vlog or Podcast (using Google Vids) that is dedicated entirely to the book you've read. It should represent the major events, controversial issues, and significant themes developed in the novel you read. Everything you include must be based on events and characters in the book you read. You may do the Vlog/Podcast from the perspective of a character in the book, or you may record it as "reporter" relaying your summary and analysis of the events. Videos and podcasts should be 5-10 minutes in length.



Summer Reading Response Project Rubric

	Exceeding	Meeting	Approaching	Developing
Content	The project provides detailed insight and a deeper understanding of the book. The project is relevant to the topic.	The project provides insight and understanding of the book. The project is mostly relevant to the topic.	The project provides understanding of the book. The project is somewhat relevant to the topic.	The project provides very little understanding of the book. The project is not relevant to the topic.
Organization & Presentation	All of the project is easy to follow, organized in a coherent manner, presented neatly, and is appealing to the audience.	All of the project is easy to follow, organized in a coherent manner, presented neatly, and is appealing to the audience.	Portions of the project are easy to follow, organized in a coherent manner, presented neatly, and are somewhat appealing to the audience.	The project is not easy to follow, not organized in a coherent manner, not presented neatly, and is not appealing to the audience.
Language & Conventions	The writer demonstrates a consistent command of grammar, punctuation, and usage conventions. Although minor errors may be evident, they do not detract from the fluency or the clarity of the project.	The writer demonstrates an adequate command of grammar, punctuation, and usage conventions. Although some errors may be evident, they create few (if any) disruptions in the fluency of the writing or the clarity of the project.	The writer demonstrates a partial command of grammar, punctuation, and usage conventions. Some distracting errors may be evident, at times creating minor disruptions in the fluency or clarity of the writing.	The writer demonstrates little or no command of grammar, punctuation, and usage conventions. Serious and persistent errors create disruptions in the fluency of the writing and sometimes interfere with meaning.
Originality	The project shows excellent originality and creativity in design.	The project shows average originality and creativity in design.	The project shows moderate originality and creativity in design.	The project shows very little originality and creativity in design.