

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS - HIGH SCHOOL



Daily Independent Reading and Writing

General Instructions for Parents: See below for a description of English options for each day. Students will spend 45 minutes reading from their independent reading book and 15 minutes responding in writing to the daily prompt. They can use a book from school, home, the textbook, or a digital text. Students with a library card can check out digital books.

Here is a printable packet with all English activities and resources. [High School English Packet](#)

General Instructions for Students: Students should spend approximately an hour a day on English work. There are additional reading options listed at the end of this document.

1. **Choose a book** of interest and one that is appropriate to your grade level and reading level. If possible, connect the topic of the book to what you have been studying in class. You can find books at your homes, including from your ELA Textbook day.
2. **Read your book** daily for at least 45 minutes.
3. **Respond daily** to the prompts below. Each response should be at least half a page. Responses should be your own original thinking and should be as specific as possible.

Day	Materials	Student Activities and Recommended Time
Day 1	• Independent Reading Book • Daily Writing Prompt	☐ Read from your Independent Reading Book (45 minutes) ☐ Respond to the Daily Writing Prompt (15 minutes) - Comment on your reaction to the story so far. ➤ If you are not enjoying it, why not? ➤ If you are, what do you like about it?
Day 2	• Independent Reading	☐ Read from your Independent Reading Book (45 minutes)

	Book • Daily Writing Prompt	☐ Respond to the Daily Writing Prompt (15 minutes) Comment on a character. ➤ What positive and/or negative traits do they have? Focus on traits and personality, not only physical appearance. ➤ How do these traits affect them? ➤ Does this character remind you of someone you know? Yourself, perhaps?
Day 3	• Independent Reading Book • Daily Writing Prompt	☐ Read from your Independent Reading Book (45 minutes) ☐ Respond to the Daily Writing Prompt (15 minutes) Pick a passage from your reading today that contains striking imagery (descriptive details, setting, etc.). Cite the page number. ➤ Comment on the effect that the imagery has on you as a reader. ○ What do you picture? ○ How does it make you feel? ○ How does it affect what is going on in the text?
Day 4	• Independent Reading Book • Daily Writing Prompt	☐ Read from your Independent Reading Book (45 minutes) ☐ Respond to the Daily Writing Prompt (15 minutes) Write about how <u>you</u> fit into the story. ➤ Can you relate to some of the struggles? ➤ Do you see yourself in the story? How is your life similar or different?
Day 5	• Independent Reading Book • Daily Writing Prompt	☐ Read from your Independent Reading Book (45 minutes) ☐ Respond to the Daily Writing Prompt (15 minutes) Discuss the author's style in the section you read today, referring to specific words, phrases, and passages (diction, syntax, figurative language, etc.). ➤ Use quotes from the text to support your ideas. (Always include the page number.) ➤ What do you notice about the author's writing that sets them apart from other authors?
Day 6	• Independent Reading Book • Daily Writing Prompt	☐ Read from your Independent Reading Book (45 minutes) ☐ Respond to the Daily Writing Prompt (15 minutes) Select a quote that either seems important, or just strikes you as interesting. Comment on your selection. ➤ Why does it stand out to you? Cite the page number.
Day 7	• Independent Reading Book	☐ Read from your Independent Reading Book (45 minutes) ☐ Respond to the Daily Writing Prompt (15 minutes)

	• Daily Writing Prompt	Describe the tone of the section you read today by listing 10-12 words from the section that stand out and then discussing their overall affect on the mood. ➤ How did those words make you feel? ➤ Why do you think the author choose them?
Day 8	• Independent Reading Book • Daily Writing Prompt	☐ Read from your Independent Reading Book (45 minutes) ☐ Respond to the Daily Writing Prompt (15 minutes) - Talk to a character. ➤ Ask the character a question, scold them, advise them, yell at them, beg them to change, etc. Pretend like the character is someone who will listen to you.
Day 9	• Independent Reading Book • Daily Writing Prompt	☐ Read from your Independent Reading Book (45 minutes) ☐ Respond to the Daily Writing Prompt (15 minutes) - What do the characters in the novel value? ➤ Use specific details from the text to support your answer. ➤ Compare these values to ours/yours today.
Day 10	• Independent Reading Book • Daily Writing Prompt	☐ Read from your Independent Reading Book (45 minutes) ☐ Respond to the Daily Writing Prompt (15 minutes) - Prepare a 1-minute book talk for your class. This response should be at least 1 page in length. It's ok if you are not finished reading. ➤ Do you recommend this book? Why? Why not? ➤ Who would enjoy this book? (Teens interested in sports? Musicians? etc.)
Additional Options	• Commonlit • Newsela (Login with District account)	Additional Reading: Look up informational texts related to the ideas you are reading about in your novel. You can search by theme, grade level, genre, etc. Read the article and think through the questions and/or write an additional journal entry about how the article connects to your novel.

Additional Resources for Enrichment

- [Big Future - explore colleges & careers](#)
- [Advanced Placement \(AP\) - info & AP Classroom resources](#)
- [Naviance - all kinds of resources to explore](#)
- [SAT - info & practice test & Khan Academy prep](#)
- [PSAT - info & prep](#)