



## Summer Reading 2025

### General Instructions for Grades 9-12

In anticipation of the 2025-2026 school year, the district of Elmwood Park Public Schools is requiring that all students entering Grades 9 through 12 in September (not including *AP English* students, who will receive a different assignment) read at least one fiction book of their choice prior to entering school in September **and** complete one project of their choice, from the list below, to demonstrate their understanding of their selected book. This assignment is due to each student's English language arts (ELA) teacher no later than **September 5, 2025**. On this date or shortly thereafter, students will be asked to present their project to their peers. All summer reading projects will be graded with [this corresponding rubric](#). This assignment will count as three homework grades.

Students are encouraged to take time to select a book that is truly right for them and that they are excited to begin reading. If students encounter difficulty in choosing a book, they should consult with their teacher; our Media Specialist, Ms. Alfonso ([valfonso@epps.org](mailto:valfonso@epps.org)); or the public library. You may also use [this guide](#) on choosing a "just right" book to read and refer to [this list](#) of suggestions drawn from a variety of professional sources.

We encourage students to not feel bound by this list but to instead choose a book that truly speaks to them. Additionally, we encourage parents/guardians to be involved in this process, providing guidance to their children in selecting a book that is right for them. Parents/Guardians may also find web-based resources like [Common Sense Media](#) useful in determining what sort of book is right for their student.

As an additional requirement for students who will be in an **honors** ELA class next year, the title selected must have appeared on a [B&N Fiction Bestseller's List](#) or a [NY Times Fiction Bestseller's List](#) at some point in time; additionally, certain projects might not be available at the honors level. Also, be aware that manga and graphic novels are not eligible choices for honors classes.

**The project should include the student's full name, as well as the title and author of the summer reading book. Digital work should also include the student's name as part of the filename. Page limits are calculated using double-spaced, typed text in font type "Times New Roman," with a font size of 12 point. Project descriptions may be found on the next page.**

# Summer Reading Projects for Students Entering Grade 9, 10, 11, or 12 in September 2025

Please choose **one** of the following project options to demonstrate that you have read a book for your summer reading assignment. This project is due to your ELA teacher no later than **September 5, 2025.**

## **Story Soundtrack:**

Create a playlist/soundtrack made up of at least six songs that you feel represents the book that you have read. For each song, include the title and artist, as well as a brief explanation (a few sentences per song) of why the song is appropriate for your book. With your story soundtrack, please create album cover art to accompany your assignment. (This artwork may be hand-drawn or digital.)

## **Podcast:**

Create a podcast that discusses the book that you have read, including a summary, commentary, and analysis of themes, symbols, and characters. You may team up with other students who have read the same book and submit your project collaboratively, provided that all students are heard from during the podcast. Your podcast should range from 3 to 5 minutes in length per person in the podcast group.

## **Infographic:**

Create an infographic to tell others more about your chosen summer reading text. You may use Canva or any other appropriate design software to assist you in this process. Be sure to include important characters, events, and/or symbols from your text. (For inspiration regarding infographics, please see [this resource](#).)

## **Research the Author:**

Research the author of the book that you have read and create a biographical poster, highlighting his or her life, works, and influence. Be sure to include important aspects of the novel and how they connect to the author's life and experience. On an attached sheet, be sure to include an appropriate "works cited" page. **This option is not available for the honors level.**



**Comic Strip:**

Create a comic strip that is at least 15 panels in length, either digitally or by hand, of a scene that you feel was thematically important to your summer reading book. With your comic strip, include a two-paragraph (minimum) reflection on why this scene was important to the book.

**Alternative Ending:**

Write a one to three-page alternative ending to the book that you have read for summer reading. Include one extra paragraph at the end about what you changed about the ending and why you changed it.

