

Advanced English 9

Summer Reading Assignment

Rationale for Summer Reading

In the York County School Division, we believe summer reading should empower students to develop an appreciation for reading and enable them to become lifelong readers and learners. The required English summer reading assignment allows students to broaden their scope and knowledge of novels and other literary works, and it provides an opportunity for students to engage in critical thinking and analysis of texts. For students who continue to take advanced courses, summer assignments develop progressively each year. By senior year, students are expected to be fully sophisticated in their knowledge and use of the major elements and characteristics of literature.

Required Summer Reading

Advanced English 9 teachers from all four high schools have worked collaboratively to develop a list of books that students should choose from in order to complete the required summer assignment. York County students enrolled in **Advanced English 9** for the next school year are required to **select two full-length works from the list below** (either fiction and/or nonfiction) to read prior to the beginning of school in September. **Students will choose one book to use for the Reader Response and Reflection and another book for the in-class essay.**

The titles below span a broad range of reading and maturity levels. **Parents/guardians are encouraged to take an active role in helping their student to select a book from the list below that best fits the student and the family.** Copies of these books may be available in the schools, at public libraries, and at local book stores.

Fiction (Use *Fiction* Reader Response and Reflection questions)

Book 1: *Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes* by Edith Hamilton

Book 2: *How it Went Down* by Kekla Magoon

Book 3: *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien

Nonfiction (Use *Non Fiction* Reader Response and Reflection questions)

Book 4: *A Sense of Where You Are: Bill Bradley at Princeton* by John McPhee

Book 5: *The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller

Book 6: *Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Wartime Sarajevo* by Zlata Filipovic

Instructions

- During the summer, students will select **two** full-length works from the list above to read during the summer.
- After reading students will complete a Reader Response and Reflection sheet for **one** of the books.
- Students will turn in their completed Reader Response and Reflection sheet to their teacher on the first day of English class in September.
- In September, using the second novel, students will participate in a class literature circle to engage students in discussion to prepare them to write an in-class essay on the book they selected to read from the above list. Students may use their notes from the literature circle for the in-class essay.
- The summer assignment is designed to be completed by the student with minimal assistance.
- The summer assignment must be students' **original and individual work. Late work will not be accepted.**



Possible topics for the in-class essay are provided below.

1. Authors often create realistic, complex characters by showing how they change gradually over time or suddenly as a result of joyful or traumatic events. Explain how the protagonist in your text changes throughout the story, either positively or negatively.
2. Analyze the internal and external conflicts experienced by a main character in the text.
3. How does the title of the novel that you've read relate to the text itself? Does it serve as foreshadowing? Does it highlight theme or character? Of what significance is the title?
4. Consider the relationship between the characters and the setting of your novel. Think about the way that the characters are described: their characteristics, the conflicts that they face, the actions they take, and their emotional reactions. Compare these to the setting and the way it is described. Explain how the setting of the novel is representative, or is not representative of the characters.
5. A good book will often address several universal subjects, such as love, war, friendship, loss, growing up, etc. Over the course of the work, a theme will emerge about that subject. Pick one theme this book addresses and explain what readers learn about that subject from reading this selection. Your theme should have application not only to your book but to the world outside of the book.

Evaluation

The summer reading grades will include the following:

- Quiz grade for the Reader Response and Reflection (See rubric)
- Quiz grade for the timed in-class essay (Teachers will provide rubric in September.)

The two grades related to the summer assignment will be included in the students' first interim report.

Copies of the summer assignments are available in the guidance office at each high school and on the YCSD website: <https://yorkcountyschools.org/parents/studentInfo/summerAssignments.aspx>.

For general questions about the summer assignment, please contact the following teacher at **your** school. Since most questions regarding the summer assignments occur at a time when teachers are away from their classrooms, please understand that teachers will provide a response to emails at their earliest convenience.

- Bruton High School students should contact: Ms. Taylor Potts tpotts@ycsd.york.va.us
- Grafton High School students should contact: Ms. Charity Ayres cayres@ycsd.york.va.us
- Tabb High School students should contact: Ms. Rainah Gillis rgillis@ycsd.york.va.us
- York High School students should contact: Ms. Antoinette Blaber ablaber@ycsd.york.va.us