To receive credit for your summer reading, a student must complete one of the two (2) assignments listed below and submit it to his or her teacher by the second day of classes. (*This does not apply to Honors English courses, which require a specific honors summer reading assignment*)

**Assignment A: Book Review (25 Points)**

After reading a book from the summer reading list, write a 3-5 paragraph, typed review essay. Below are some suggestions for organizing it.

**Introduction**
State title and author.
Give a brief (2-3 sentence) summary of the book.
Give a one-sentence opinion of the book that will serve as your main idea.

**Body Paragraphs**
Support your opinion of the book by using examples of how the author develops various aspects of the book. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If Fiction:</th>
<th>If Non-Fiction:</th>
<th>If Auto/Biography:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discuss how the author develops the theme or handles the plot.</td>
<td>Discuss the author's thesis and method of development. (examples, statistics, etc.)</td>
<td>Identify and explain the author's motives in writing the book.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe important characters and the impact of setting.</td>
<td>Identify the author's expertise for writing on the subject.</td>
<td>Explain what insight the author provides towards understanding the subject better.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify key scenes from the story that stand out.</td>
<td>Discuss the quality of the author's evidence- examples, statistics, etc.</td>
<td>Is the material organized in an effective manner?</td>
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**Conclusion**
Suggest who else might be interested in this book.
Speculate on the impact this book might have on other people or society in general.

**OR**

**Assignment B (50 Points)**

Write one (1) analytical essay of no fewer than 500 words on one of the topics listed below.

**Fiction/Drama**
One can truly be alone despite the presence of other people. In the fictional work you have read, identify an alienated character and analyze the causes, which led to this condition. Support your views with specific examples from the book.

or

In life we all face choices and consequences; describe the main character's pivotal moments and how he or she resolves the dilemma. How does this action impact the theme of the novel?

**Non-Fiction**
To what extent has the book reshaped your own views on the topic. Write a letter to the author of the book taking a position on the issue. You may agree or disagree with the author, but you must support your position with specific examples. Be sure to address the concerns the author raised in his or her book.

**Autobiography**
We often read autobiographies to find strength, wisdom, and insight that we can then apply to our own lives. This knowledge may come from either a positive or a negative example. Consider the many experiences discussed in the book, what lesson or portion of wisdom can one draw from the person's life? How might it apply to your own life? Support your ideas with examples from the book.

**Poetry**
Discuss three poems with similar themes. How do the authors use literary devices such as imagery, simile, metaphor, etc. to develop their ideas?

The following works represent some of the major units of study for the respective grade levels. These works will be covered along with other works during the upcoming school year. We encourage students to explore one or more of the works from their grade level to provide them with a "head-start" for the upcoming school year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seniors</th>
<th>Senior</th>
<th>Sophomores</th>
<th>Freshmen</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Siddhartha</td>
<td>Macbeth</td>
<td>To Kill a Mockingbird</td>
<td>Romeo and Juliet</td>
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<td>Hamlet</td>
<td>Canterbury Tales</td>
<td>The Crucible</td>
<td>Of Mice and Men</td>
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<td>The Stranger</td>
<td>Lord of the Flies</td>
<td>Much Ado About Nothing</td>
<td>The Odyssey</td>
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<td>The Color of Water</td>
<td>Angela’s Ashes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**FICTION**

**Albom, Mitch. Five People You Meet In Heaven**
The novel weaves together three stories, all told about the same man: 83-year-old Eddie.

**Alcott, Louisa May. Little Women**
The four March sisters learn about life while living through the Civil War.

**Bronte, Emily. Wuthering Heights**
Catherine Earnshaw is drawn to Heathcliff, a mysterious orphan whom her father brings home.

**Binchy, Maeve. Circle of Friends**
Loyal friends Benny and Eve grow up together in an Irish village.

**Chevalier, Tracy. Girl with the Pearl Earring**
The novel centers on the 17th-century Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer household during the 1660s.

**Cisneros, Sandra. House on Mango Street**
Esperanza Cordero uses poems and stories to express thoughts and emotions about her oppressive environment.

**Esquivel, Laura. Like Water for Chocolate**
The action of this novel centers around the kitchen, the heart and soul of a traditional Mexican family.

**Fitzgerald, F. Scott. This Side of Paradise**
The novel tells the story of Amory Blaine, as he grows up during the crazy years following WW1.

**Gaines, Ernest. A Lesson Before Dying**
A young Black teacher struggles to impart a sense of pride to Jefferson before he must face his death.

**Goldberg, Myra. Bee Season**
First prize in her school spelling bee changes 9-year-old Eliza Naumann and her family.

**Hemingway, Ernest. A Farewell to Arms**
A soldier and nurse fall in love during WW1.

**Kingsolver, Barbara. The Bean Trees**
Marietta Greer is catapulted into a surprising new life when her car runs out of gas in Taylorville, Ill.

**McCullers, Carson. The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter**
The characters are the damned, the voiceless, and the rejected of a small southern town.

**Naylor, Gloria. The Women of Brewster Place**
It chronicles the strength of seven diverse black women who live in a decaying urban neighborhood.

**Tan, Amy. The Kitchen God’s Wife**
It is an absorbing story about the lives of a Chinese mother and her adult American-born daughter.

**Toole, John Kennedy. A Confederacy of Dunces**
Comic adventures of Ignatius J. Reilly, a 30-year-old medievalist who lives at home with his mother in New Orleans.

**Walker, Alice. Meridian**
A young woman attempts to find her place in the revolution for racial and social equality.

**PLAYS & POETRY**

**Auburn, David. Proof**
Catherine, who sacrificed college to care for her mentally ill father is left in limbo after his death.

**Collins, Billy. Ed. Poetry 180: A Turning Back to Poetry**
An anthology of contemporary poems.

**Fugard, Athol. Master Harold and the Boys**
Concerns the relationship between a white teen and two Black servants in South Africa during apartheid.

**Keilor, Garrison. Good Poems**
A collection of 300 poems each with an amusing introduction.

**Henley, Beth. Crimes of the Heart**
Three sisters reunite just before one is going to jail.

**Pinsky, Robert. Americans’ Favorite Poems**
200 poems submitted by Americans to the favorite poem project.

**Simon, Neil. Brighton Beach Memoir**
A teenager grows up in Brooklyn in the 1930s.

**Valdez, Luis. Zoot Suit**
Based on the zoot-suit riots of 1940s Los Angeles, when a group of Chicano men were jailed on a murder charge.

**Williams, Tennessee. Streetcar Named Desire**
A New Orleans couple has their lives upended by the arrival of a disturbed, faded Southern belle.

**Wilson, August. Fences**
Troy Maxson and his family deal with work, marriage, family disputes, mental illness, violence, and more in 1950s Pittsburgh.

**YOUNG ADULT FICTION**

**Brashares, Ann. Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants**
Four friends share one pair of magical pants over the course of a summer.

**Crutcher, Chris. Whale Talk**
A swim team full of misfits learns important life lessons.

**Haddix, Margaret Peterson. Just Ella**
A unique retelling of the Cinderella story.

**Myers, Walter Dean. Slam**
A teenage learns about life and basketball in Harlem.

**Napoli, Donna Jo. Beast**
A surprising retelling of Beauty and the Beast.

**Parks, Gordon. The Learning Tree**
A true-to-life novel of growing up as a black man in the middle of the 20th century.

**Peck, Robert. A Day No Pigs Would Die**
The experiences of a young man growing up in a Shaker community.

**Rostkowski, Margaret. After the Dancing Days**
Annie learns to stand up to her mother in the days following the end of The Great War.

**SPRINTS & RECREATION**

**Armstrong, Lance. Every Second Counts**
Confronts the challenge of moving beyond his cancer experience, his first Tour victory, and his celebrity status.

**Asinof, Eliot. Eight Men Out**
The tale of the greatest scandal the world of baseball has known.

**Bissinger, H.G. Friday Night Lights**
The story of a town obsessed with its champion high-school football team.

**Conroy, Pat. My Losing Season**
A losing basketball team discovers how suffering can be transformed to become a source of strength and inspiration.

**Coulton, Larry. Counting Coup**
The social dilemmas faced by present-day Native Americans are revealed in this look at a high school girls' basketball team.

**Eig, Jonathan. Luckiest Man: The Life and Death of Lou Gehrig**
Gehrig's accomplishments make him one of the best baseball players of all time.

**Hillenbrand, Laura. Sea Biscuit: An American Legend**
The story of the horse who became a cultural icon.

**Jackson, Phil. Sacred Hoops**
An inside look at the higher wisdom of teamwork from head coach Phil Jackson.

**Longman, Jere. The Girls of Summer: The U.S. Women’s Soccer Team and How It Changed the World**
The story of the women’s team, their rise to world dominance, and their struggle for the support, respect, and salary they deserve.

**Malamud, Bernard. The Natural**
The book explores the mythic world of baseball.

**THRILLERS & MYSTERIES**

**Christie, Agatha. And Then There Were None**
The story of 10 strangers, each lured to Indian Island by a mysterious host.

**Clancy, Tom. The Hunt for Red October**
A military thriller considered the greatest espionage novel in history.

**Clark, Mary Higgins. The Cradle Will Fall**
A woman sees a man put a body in a trunk.

**Grisham, John. The Client**
A young witness is hunted by the mob.

**Haddix, Margaret Peterson. After the Learning Tree**
The experiences of a young man growing up in a Shaker community.

**Hillerman, Tony. A Thief of Time**
When two corpses appear amid stolen goods and bones at an ancient burial site, Leaphorn and Chee must plunge into the past to unearth the truth.
King, Stephen. *Salem’s Lot*  
A novel about the slow takeover of a small town by a vampire.

Ludlum, Robert. *The Bourne Identity*  
His memory is blank. He only knows that he was flushed out of the Mediterranean Sea, his body riddled with bullets.

**SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY**

Arthur Dent travels the galaxy with his pal Ford Prefect, getting into horrible messes.

Bradbury, Ray. *The Martian Chronicles*  
Stories of the colonization of Mars form an eerie mesh of past and future.

Card, Orson Scott. *Ender’s Game*  
Aliens have almost destroyed the human species. To make sure humans win, the world government breeds military geniuses.

Clarke, Arthur C. *Childhood’s End*  
Earth has been invaded by an alien race that no one has ever seen: the Overlords.

Crichton, Michael. *Jurassic Park*  
A dinosaur-bites-man disaster tale set on an island theme park gone terribly wrong.

Dick, Philip K. *The Man in the High Castle*  
What if America lost WW2 and is occupied jointly by Nazi Germany and Japan?

Dickinson, Peter. *The Golden Compass*  
A rebellious child becomes involved in one of the biggest events that her or any other world will ever encounter.

Pullman, Phillip. *The Golden Compass*  
A rebellious child becomes involved in one of the biggest events that her or any other world will ever encounter.

Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Order of The Phoenix*  
The fifth Harry Potter book takes a uniquely psychological dark turn.

Tolkien, J.R.R. *Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Rings*  
Frodo, an ordinary hobbit, goes on a wild adventure to the darkest of all places.

Vonnegut, Kurt. *Slaughterhouse Five*  
We follow Pilgrim through all phases of his life, including his experience as a POW who witnesses the firebombing of Dresden.

Wells, H.G. *War of the Worlds*  
The classic tale of aliens landing on earth is still powerful and compelling.

**HISTORY, POLITICS, & MODERN CULTURE**

Bradley, James. *Flags of Our Fathers*  
The unique stories of the men who raised the flag at Iwo Jima.

Cuomo, Kerry Kennedy. *Speak Truth to Power*  
Inspiriting lives of the common women and men, all who believe in liberty and justice.

Davis, Kenneth C. *Don’t Know Much About History*  
Connects the myths and misconceptions of history and shows that truth is more entertaining than propaganda.

Giuliani, Rudolph W. *Leadership*  
The ex-mayor demonstrates how he used an aggressive, hands-on management style to deal with everything from petty crime to terrorism.

Hedges, Chris. *War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning*  
This moving book examines the continuing appeal of war to the human psyche.

Machiavelli, Niccolo. *The Prince*  
Analyzes the often-violent means by which political power is seized and retained, and the circumstances in which it is lost.

McPhee, John. *The Pine Barrens*  
Insightful book about the botanical, cultural, and historical peculiarities of this region.

Parati, Michael. *The Terrorism Trap*  
A richly informed and powerfully argued analysis of the deeper causes and meaning of September 11.

Powell, Colin. *My American Journey*  
Author's journey from the South Bronx through the Watergate—bites through the December

*Giom financial & political means, by which the world's lurid, corrupt, and ruthless leaders achieve their illicit ends. Indeed, this is one of the most important books I have ever read.된*  
Riveting first hand account of a catastrophic expedition up Mount Everest in March 1996.

Lalicki, Tom. *Spelblindar: The Life of Harry Houdini*  
Lalicki successfully weaves together information about the magician's personal life and his public exploits.

Mathabane, Mark. *Kaffir Boy*  
The author's describes growing up in a nonwhite ghetto outside Johannesburg—and how he escaped its horrors.

McBride, James. *The Color of Water*  
This is the story of Ruth McBride Jordan, the two good men she married, and the 12 good children she raised.

McCourt, Frank. *Angela’s Ashes*  
McCourt writes about his difficulties growing up in Ireland.

Petry, Ann. *Harriet Tubman: Conductor of the Underground Railroad*  
The story of the courageous woman who guided over 300 slaves to freedom.

Wright, Richard. *Black Boy*  
Wright's book tells of his journey from innocence to experience in the Jim Crow South.