

Hillgrove High School English Department
Honors 9th Lit, Honors World Lit, Honors American Lit and Honors Dramatic Writing
Summer Reading 2025-2026

Honors and AP courses are rigorous, performance-based, interactive courses where emphasis is placed on the development of critical and analytical thinking skills through classroom discussion of texts, writing, and presenting. Over the last few years, we have seen significant growth in our students who have been actively participating in daily independent reading in their English classes. As we approach this summer, maintaining that growth by continuing to read throughout the summer is vital to continued student achievement in their upcoming classes.

| Honors English Lit and Comp I (Honors 9th Grade) | Honors English Lit and Comp II (Honors 10th grade) |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain a copy of <i>Remarkably Bright Creatures</i> by Shelby Van Pelt (Must have a hard copy) Read up to page 136 As you read, complete the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify a minimum of THREE places in the story where the characters Tova, Cameron, and/or Marcellus say or do something that is contrary to their regular actions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each time you notice a difference highlight that area and answer the following question in the margin: why is the character doing this? Identify a minimum of FIVE places in the story where the idea of loneliness/solitude is addressed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each time you notice the idea, highlight that area and answer the following question in the margin: Why does this idea keep coming up? <p style="text-align: center;"><i>We will finish the novel as part of the first unit. Be prepared to discuss your reading during the first week of school.</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Choose ONE of the following books (must have a hard copy): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Challenger Deep</i> (Neal Shusterman) <i>What I Carry</i> (Jennifer Longo) <i>The Book of Unknown Americans</i> (Cristina Henríquez) <i>The Patron Saints of Nothing</i> (Randy Riba) Read the following pages for your chosen book: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Challenger Deep</i>: pages 1-101 <i>What I Carry</i>: pages 1-114 <i>The Book of Unknown Americans</i>: pages 1-90 <i>The Patron Saints of Nothing</i>: pages 1-100 As you read your pages, annotate for the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What thematic concepts are emerging? What elements of figurative language do you notice the author using? Mark examples. <p style="text-align: center;"><i>We will finish the novel as part of the first unit. Be prepared to discuss your reading during the first week of school.</i></p> |
| Honors Lit and Comp III (Honors 11th grade) | Honors Dramatic Writing (12th grade) |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Click on this document. Read the assigned number of texts for each time period. Write a 2-3 sentence summary of the text (Please do not use AI) Review the themes from the timeline chart. Choose one and in 2-3 sentences, explain how the text you chose represents that theme. (Make sure to use specific details and language from the text.) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain a copy of <i>Save the Cat: The Last Book on Screenwriting You'll Ever Need</i> by Blake Snyder (Must have a hard copy of the book) Annotate as you read. Pay particular attention to information about loglines, genres, and beats. View a movie of your choice and complete Film analysis worksheet: DWprecourse reading assignment.docx (you will need to save a copy of the document to type on it) |

Hillgrove High School English Department
AP English Language and Composition Summer Reading 2025-2026

On the first day of school, most students expect their teacher to tell them what they will be learning for the year. According to College Board, the AP Language and Composition course centers around three skills: [the] development and revision of evidence-based analytic and argumentative writing, the rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts, and the decisions writers make as they compose and revise. What does that mean?

Well, for starters it means that we will teach you why you should ignore that really persuasive video on YouTube. We will also teach you why it was so persuasive in the first place. We will help you realize why, despite the logical and rhetorical fallacies, that political ad by the other side seems to fool so many people. We will help you understand why that author or speaker you so admire seemed to know exactly the right word or phrase to inspire YOU to act.

We will, hopefully, teach you how to use this knowledge, to make good arguments, and recognize bad ones. To begin this process, our summer reading assignment will be a sort of good global citizen boot camp. You will complete a current events project that will require you to read and respond to ONE news article per week for 8 weeks. You will summarize the news, share your own views on the news, and do an analysis of the article you have read in a weekly assignment. This is designed to help you think about what is going on in the world today, and, also, how to help you listen to and respond to ideas or arguments that challenge your own world view.

Current Events Journal

Before you begin reading and crafting your responses, read the following articles about bias and arguments.

[How to Spot Media Bias](#)

[8 Ways To Practice the Art of Productive Disagreement](#)

[The Psychology of Bias](#)

After reading the information above, you will keep a current events journal. You will need 8 total entries. For each entry, read 1 article and write a brief reflection.

The Article

Read a news article. The article should meet one of the following three criteria:

- A) It should be an opinion piece.
- B) Its author should demonstrate a clear bias for or against the topic
- C) The article deals with an issue or culture that you are unfamiliar with.

The news article you read must be current. Current here means no more than 2 weeks old.

Written Requirement

Each entry in your journal should include the following:

- **Header** : Title of Article, Author, Date, Source
- **Summary** (50-word minimum)
- Write a summary of the article. Try to understand the entirety of the article and provide a synopsis in your own words. Avoid using the same phrasing and same presentation of facts. Use indirect quotes as needed.
- **Analysis**
- Provide an analysis of the authorial choices: writing style, voice, headline, order/structure, word choices and their connotations. Be specific and focused; you don't need to analyze everything. Just choose one thing to closely analyze and discuss how it shows the bias of the author.
- **Personal Response** (100-word minimum)
- What is your own personal takeaway from the news article? What new insights did you glean from reading the article? How did this article reveal something to you about your bias? What is your position on the topic?
- At the beginning of the semester, you will turn your journal in. You will submit the journal with your written reflection for a major grade. You may turn in a hard copy or a digital copy.

Checklist

Each of the 8 articles that you read must come from a different source. You must also choose articles in different subject areas. Use the checklist below to make sure that you are covering each of the requirements. You can fulfill these requirements in any order, but you must make sure that you check off 8 boxes by the end of the 10-week cycle.

| Date | LIST OF SUBJECTS | Date | LIST OF SOURCES |
|------|-------------------------------------|------|-----------------|
| | Sports | | |
| | Environment | | |
| | Fashion | | |
| | Science/Technology | | |
| | Business | | |
| | Literature/Language | | |
| | Performing Arts | | |
| | Human Interest | | |
| | Politics/Government (International) | | |
| | Politics/Government (National) | | |

List of Recommended News Sources

The New York Times, Washington Post, Boston Globe, Chicago Tribune, LA Times, The Atlantic, The New Yorker, Vanity Fair, Vogue, Rolling Stone, The Economist, Christian Science Monitor, Time Magazine, The Wall Street Journal, National Geographic, Science, Teen Vogue, AJC, MDJ, or any other major metropolitan newspaper or nationally known magazine.

Other sources are acceptable, but they should be a reputable source. Avoid clickbait articles.

This link takes you to the media bias pyramid. You may use any source listed except those in the red rectangle at the base.

[Media Bias Chart](#)

Reflection (250 words minimum)

Write a meaningful reflection in which you examine what you learned from reading the news. In your reflection you may consider the following questions:

- *What did you learn about the world or society or the current state of affairs from reading the news?*
- *What did you learn about the importance or relevance of journalism in the world?*
- *Is it difficult to discern truth from fact?*
- *Are there matters of significant importance that need more attention?*
- *Is there something you gained a deeper understanding of?*
- *Is there something you would like to know more about?*

In your reflection, you must reference/cite a minimum of 3 articles in your portfolio to support your claims.

**Adapted from Aaron Gillego*

Hillgrove High School English Department
AP English Literature and Composition Summer Reading 2025-2026

On the first day of school, most students expect their teacher to tell them what they will be learning for the year. According to College Board, the AP Literature and Composition course centers around three skills: "...reading, analyzing, and writing about imaginative literature (fiction, poetry, drama) from various periods." We will engage in reading closely and critically to "deepen [your] understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure." What does that mean? It means we will explore literature from a variety of genres, time periods, cultures, and authors. We want you "...to develop an appreciation of ways literature reflects and comments on a range of experiences, institutions, and social structures" (AP English Literature and Composition Course Description).

Being comfortable with unique forms of literature is one of the important foundational skills for this course. Because you may not be there yet, **we want you to spend some time this summer reading the novel *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros** and identifying some major messages throughout the novel.

Assignment: Because character voice is such an instrumental part of this unique novel that spans over the course of one year of an adolescent girl named Esperanza's life, we want you to identify a major message in the novel and conduct as your assignment a Ted Talk on the subject you have identified.

A TED talk is a short presentation (around 3 minutes) about a new or unique idea. Think about some ideas of your own that you might like to talk about.

As you read *The House on Mango Street*, jot down major messages, concepts, or ideas that you encounter at the end of each vignette or short story on a post-it note and stick it in your book. We have included beneath this assignment the list of the **50 most commonly used subjects in literature** for you to examine and expand upon. Then, when you have finished the novel, return to your post-its and see what ideas or concepts keep getting repeated and ask yourself *why*.

What is a major message you might turn into your Ted Talk?

For example, in the first vignette, pictured below, our narrator discusses moving several times and of a family that has had to be transient until they move finally to Mango Street, a sanctuary for them that is all theirs. Perhaps my Ted Talk could be about the effects of moving on young children?

The House on Mango Street

By Sandra Cisneros

Chapter One: "The House on Mango Street"

We didn't always live on Mango Street. Before that we lived on Loomis on the third floor, and before that we lived on Keeler. Before Keeler it was Paulina, and before that I can't remember. But what I remember most is moving a lot. Each time it seemed there'd be one more of us. By the time we got to Mango Street we were six—Mama, Papa, Carlos, Kiki, my sister Nenny and me.

The house on Mango Street is ours, and we don't have to pay rent to anybody, or share the yard with the people downstairs, or be careful not to make too much noise, and there isn't a landlord banging on the ceiling with a broom. But even so, it's not the house we'd thought we'd get.

Need some inspiration? [Here's](#) the Ted Talk site with examples that are 3 minutes, which your Ted Talk needs to be.

*Remember that at the beginning of the course, this assignment will be submitted digitally via Padlet and www.turnitin.com – so this Ted Talk script that you write first in a Microsoft Word document should be your work alone and not something influenced or discovered online or via other sources. You will then record and submit your Padlet to your teacher's page at the beginning of the semester.

Why it is important -- Thoughtful readers write to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately by selecting apt and specific evidence, organizing the evidence into broader ideas, and conveying the impact of its meaning. These tasks align directly with the purpose and objectives of AP Literature and Composition.

*This course aligns to an introductory college-level literature and writing curriculum.

50 Common Subjects in Literature

1. Abandonment
2. Alienation
3. Ambition
4. The American Dream
5. Birth/Childhood/ New Life
6. Coming of Age
7. Business/Commercialism
8. Community
9. Cruelty
10. Death
11. Education/Learning
12. Ethics
13. Family
14. Fate
15. Freedom
16. Futility
17. Gender
18. Grief
19. Guilt/Shame
20. Heroism
21. Hope
22. The Need/Search for Identity
23. Illness
24. Individual and Society
25. Innocence and Experience
26. Isolation
27. Justice
28. Love
29. Memory
30. Nationalism
31. Nature
32. Oppression
33. Parenthood
34. Pride
35. Race/Racism
36. Regret
37. Rejection
38. Religion
39. Responsibility
40. Science and Technology
41. Sex/Sensuality
42. Social Class
43. Spirituality
44. Stages of Life
45. Success
46. Suffering
47. Survival
48. Tradition
49. Violence
50. Work