

Hillgrove High School English Department
Honors Lit and Comp I-IV (9th-12th), AP Language, & AP Literature
Summer Reading 2026-2027

On the first day of school, most students expect their teacher to tell them what they will be learning for the year. Honors Lit and Comp I-IV 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 Lit and Comp I (9th Grade)	Honors Lit and Comp II (10th grade)
<p>Obtain a copy of <i>The Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak (Must have HARD COPY)</p> <p>Read up to page 170 (Part Three – stop at Part Four). As you read, complete the following assignment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As you read pick TWO of the major characters listed below to complete a character analysis <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Liesel Meminger b) Hans Hubermann c) Rose Hubermann d) Death 2. Also, as you read pick ONE of the minor characters below to complete a character analysis <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Rudy Steiner b) Frau Herman c) Max Vanderberg 3. For EACH of your three characters you should identify the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Appearance (how does the book describe the character) b) Family (who does the character live with OR what is their background) c) Symbols (what are items in the book associated with the character) d) Colors (what colors are associated with the character in the book) e) Personality traits (how would you describe the person) f) Major conflicts (man vs man, man vs. self, man vs society, etc) g) Strengths (behaviors or thoughts that help the character) h) Weaknesses (behaviors or thoughts that cause problems for the character) <p>*Make sure that you include quotes to support your ideas. **You will have THREE character analyses total. **You may find that some characters have more information in the early part of the book than others.</p>	<p>Choose ONE of the following books (must have a HARD COPY):</p> <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) <p>Read the following pages for your chosen book:</p> <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 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As you read your pages, annotate for the following questions: What thematic concepts are emerging? 2. What elements of figurative language do you notice the author using? Mark and annotate examples. <p><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 (11 th grade)	Honors Lit and Comp IV (12 th grade)
<p>Do a little informal research and answer these two questions: What is a definition of the American Dream? What are 3 obstacles to achieving the American Dream?</p> <p>Then, select a book to read independently. Choose a book based on your interests, but please stick to the list. <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> Lorraine Hansberry <i>The House on Mango Street</i>—Sandra Cisneros <i>The Joy Luck Club</i>—Amy Tan <i>Nickel and Dimed</i>—Barbara Ehrenreich <i>Scratch Beginnings: Me, \$25, and the Search for the American Dream</i>—Adam Shepard</p> <p>Complete the following steps on this document for your assignment.</p>	<p>Obtain a copy of <i>One Amazing Thing</i> by Chitra Divakaruni (must be a HARD COPY)</p> <p>Read through Page 126</p> <p>As you read annotate for the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Major themes that emerge from the text 2. How the author uses detail and dialogue for character development 3. How the different characters view a theme similarly and differently <p>Write a brief 1-2 paragraph reflection: If you were to tell the story of one amazing thing that has happened in your life, what would be? Why is this so important? We will develop this into a personal narrative during our first unit.</p>
AP English Language and Composition	AP English Literature and Composition
<p>For this assignment, you will choose a work of literary nonfiction. As you read, you will take note of the book’s rhetorical choices, or ways in which the author presents or enhances a story or argument, and its structure, line of reasoning, and rhetorical situation. After reading, you will demonstrate your learning through a file folder project including the components listed below. This project is designed to introduce you to the rhetorical analysis and close reading skills central to AP Language and Composition. Successful projects will move beyond summary to analyze how authors use language, structure, and rhetorical choices to shape meaning and influence readers.</p> <p>Complete the following steps on this document for your assignment.</p>	<p>Assignment Part 1: Read a novel of your choosing that has literary merit.</p> <p>Find a fiction book of your choosing that you perceive as having literary merit enough to be used in a college-level introductory English course or taught in an AP Lit class.</p> <p>*Please explore the content warnings for the book you choose and discuss these with a parent or guardian before making your choice. This course aligns to an introductory college-level literature and writing curriculum.</p> <p>Assignment Part 2: Annotating Deeply</p> <p>For this assignment, you will discover the art of annotation <i>while</i> you read. Consider using large sticky notes for inside the book and smaller sticky notes for use throughout the novel.</p> <p>Complete the following steps on this document for your assignment.</p>

“What our students read in school is important; what they read the rest of their lives is more important” (Gallagher, 2009)

“...we are launching readers for life – into life – and...although reading more will have an important impact on SAT and ACT scores and on preparing students for the volume of reading in college; it also enlarges their worldview and gives them a greater understanding of the complexities of arguments so often truncated on the news” (Kittle, 2013)