

English 11 Summer Reading Assignment

The English Department at Warren County Technical School believes that learning is a lifelong endeavor and that literacy skills are essential to all academic disciplines and career pathways. With that in mind the teachers assigned to English 11 have developed the following reading list and corresponding assignment to ensure students remain engaged with quality literature and continue to develop their vocabulary, reading comprehension and writing skills over the summer months. Please make sure that you return to school on September 9, 2019 having read the book, completed your assignments, and are ready to articulate your thoughts on an in class essay based assessment.

*** This assignment will count for 10% of your first Marking Period grade.

Directions

1. All students entering their junior year at Warren County Technical School must complete their summer reading assignment for General Education and Honors sections of English 11. Grades for this assignment will be calculated as 10% of your **first marking period grade**. The assignments are **due** on the first Monday of school **September 9, 2019** and the essay assessment will be administered that day as well during your English class.
2. General Education students are required to read **one** of the titles from the Summer Reading List. Students enrolled in English 11 Honors must read **two** books from the Summer Reading List.
3. As students read the book they are required to complete **ten** reading journal entries from the list of journal prompts listed below. Each entry should be between **one-half to one full page in length**. **Please use each prompt only once** while reading your chosen book.
4. All journal responses must include at least **one piece of textual evidence** to support your opinion, summary, or answer to journal prompt question. Be sure to use proper quotations and cite the page number where your evidence can be found in the text.
5. Each journal entry must follow the following formatting requirements: typed, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, standard one inch margins. Failure to comply with these formatting rules will result in deductions from your assignment grade.
6. Your teacher will administer an **essay assessment** on the first day of school which will give you the opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge of the text. This essay will also serve as a writing sample for the course.

Summer Reading Book List Grade 11

<p><i>A Farewell to Arms</i> 1929</p>	<p>Ernest Hemmingway</p>	<p>Hemmingway's first best seller and the premiere American War novel surrounding World War I. <i>A Farewell to Arms</i> is set during the Italian campaign of World War I, and is a first-person account of American Frederic Henry, who serves as a Lieutenant in the ambulance corps of the Italian Army. The plot of the book describes the love affair between the Henry and Catherine Barkley against the backdrop of the First World War, cynical soldiers, fighting and the displacement of populations.</p>
<p><i>This Side of Paradise</i> 1920</p>	<p>F. Scott Fitzgerald</p>	<p>Fitzgerald's debut novel examines the lives and morality of post-World War I youth. Its protagonist, Amory Blaine, is an attractive Princeton University student who dabbles in literature. The novel explores the theme of love warped by greed and status seeking.</p>
<p><i>The Book Thief</i> 2005</p>	<p>Markas Zusak</p>	<p>The Book Thief centers on the life of Liesel Meminger, a ten to fourteen-year-old in Germany during World War II. Liesel's experiences are narrated by Death, who describes both the beauty and destruction of life in this era. Liesel is exposed to the horror of the Nazi regime and struggles to find a way to the innocence of her childhood in the midst of her destructive surroundings. As the political situation in Germany deteriorates, her foster parents hide a Jewish man named Max, putting the family in danger. Liesel is taught to read in secret. Recognizing the power of writing and sharing the written word, Liesel begins to not only steal books the Nazi party is looking to destroy, but also write her own stories and share the power of language.</p>
<p><i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> 1937</p>	<p>Zora Neale Hurston</p>	<p>This famous novel of the Harlem Renaissance examines race and gender issues through the eyes of its main character, a young African American female, Janie Crawford. Set in the American South the story centers around the life of an attractive African-American woman named Janie Crawford. Throughout the novel Janie narrates the story of her three marriages and her search for love to her friend Phoeby.</p>
<p><i>The Joy Luck Club</i> 1989</p>	<p>Amy Tan</p>	<p>The Joy Luck Club consists of sixteen interlocking stories about the lives of four Chinese immigrant mothers and their four American-born daughters. In 1949, the four mothers meet at the First Chinese Baptist Church in San Francisco and agree to continue to meet to play mah jong. They call their mah jong group the Joy Luck Club. The stories told in this novel revolve around the Joy Luck Club women and their daughters. Structurally, the novel is divided into four major sections, with two sections focusing on the stories of the mothers and two sections on the stories of the daughters.</p>
<p><i>The Invisible Man</i> 1897</p>	<p>H.G. Wells</p>	<p>The Invisible Man of the title is Griffin, a scientist who has devoted himself to research into optics and invents a way to change a body's refractive index to that of air so that it neither absorbs nor reflects light and thus becomes invisible. He successfully carries out this procedure on himself, but fails in his attempt to reverse it.</p>
<p><i>Outliers: The Story of Success</i> 2008</p>	<p>Malcolm Gladwell</p>	<p>Gladwell examines the background of extremely successful people to explore the common traits leading to their success. He compares birth date, birthplace, community values, family, and other factors to draw his conclusions.</p>

<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> 1985		Set in a near-future New England, this dystopian novel is set in a totalitarian theocracy that has overthrown the United States government. The novel explores themes of women in subjugation and the various means by which they gain individualism and independence. The novel's title echoes the component parts of Geoffrey Chaucer's <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> , which comprises a series of connected stories.
1984	George Orwell	1984 serves as the archetype for the genre of dystopian fiction. The book tells the tale of a future where an oppressive government runs the future of London now part of the fictitious country of Oceania, which is in perpetual war. The plot surrounds the struggle of Winston Smith against the government that is always spying, rewriting history, and punishing "thought crimes".
<i>A Brave New World</i> 1932	Aldous Huxley	The novel depicts a darkly satiric vision of a 'utopian' future in which humans are genetically bred and pharmaceutically controlled into passively serving a ruling order. A powerful work of speculative fiction that has enthralled and terrified readers for generations, it remains remarkably relevant to this day as both a warning to be heeded as we head into tomorrow and as thought-provoking, satisfying entertainment.
<i>Slaughterhouse Five</i> 1969	Kurt Vonnegut	The novel explains the troubling life of Billy Pilgrim from his experiences in World War II as an American soldier and chaplain's assistant, his life postwar and his early years. The story is told in a nonlinear order, and events become clear through flashbacks (or time travel experiences) from the unreliable narrator. He describes the stories of Billy Pilgrim, who believes he was held in an alien zoo and has experienced time travel. It is generally recognized as Vonnegut's most influential and popular work. A central event is Pilgrim's surviving the Allies' firebombing of Dresden as a prisoner-of-war. This was an event in Vonnegut's own life, and the novel is considered semi-autobiographical.
<i>The Bell Jar</i> 1963	Sylvia Plath	Esther Greenwood is brilliant, beautiful, enormously talented, and successful, but slowly going under—maybe for the last time. In her acclaimed and enduring masterwork, Sylvia Plath brilliantly draws the reader into Esther's breakdown with such intensity that her insanity becomes palpably real, even rational—as accessible an experience as going to the movies. A deep penetration into the darkest and most harrowing corners of the human psyche, <i>The Bell Jar</i> is an extraordinary accomplishment and a haunting American classic.
<i>The Perks of Being a Wallflower</i> 1999	Stephen Chbosky	Charlie, a freshman in high school, explores the dilemmas of growing up through a collection of letters he sends to an unknown receiver.

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Summer Reading Journal Prompts

1. Summarize the plot of the novel up to where you are now. Name the characters and describe their characteristics and personality and what role they play in advancing the plot. Are they round or flat characters, so far, and why?
2. Create a list of ten vocabulary words that you encounter in the chapter; look up the part of speech, the definition, and then use that word in your own sentence in a way that demonstrates your understanding of its meaning.
3. Copy down a quote from a character or a short passage of text. Tell why you think it's meaningful to the events that have happened and/or will happen or why it is meaningful to the understanding of the character.
4. Make a prediction about what will happen next. Use previous events from the story and character behavior to support this prediction.
5. Describe the climax of the story. What was the primary rising action that leads to this climax? What was the falling action? Explain.
6. Write a letter to a character telling them what they should do next, what is happening that they may not know about in the story, or tell them what they are doing wrong.
7. Pretend you are an editor for a publishing company. Write a letter to the author about his most recent chapter making recommendations for changes and improvements, as well as what the author is doing well and what you really like.
8. Pretend you are one of the characters, though not a main one. Write a letter to a friend or loved one describing what's going on in the story. Give details about the plot, your fellow characters, and how your character feels about certain events.
9. Describe your thoughts and feelings about specific events in the chapter. How did it move you?
10. Choose a character from the novel and compare them to yourself. Are you alike or different? How so? Do you have the same beliefs, origins, action, or morals? Why or why not?
11. Describe your favorite chapter and explain why it is your favorite part of the novel. What is significant about it for your overall understanding and enjoyment?
12. Choose a tense moment in the plot line. Tell how you would react if you were one of the characters in the story. What decisions would you make and why?
13. Describe a part in that chapter that surprised you and explain why.
14. Describe a part in that chapter that annoyed/upset you and explain why. Explain why you disagree with what has happened. Suggest a solution to fix this problem.
15. Discuss the use of figurative language (imagery, allusion, metaphor, etc) in the plot. What does the author primarily use? Explain if and how it helps or hurts the progression of the chapter or overall story.