

Summer Reading Hollins High School 2025

Students at Hollins, and across the district of Pinellas County, are both encouraged and required to read over the summer. Our teachers and staff are committed to student literacy, and we believe that reading over the summer will build stamina, skill, and interest in reading.

Students will turn in completed assignments to their English teacher when we return to school in August. It will be worth up to one full letter grade for the first grading period; accepting late summer assignments is based on teacher discretion. Please keep an electronic copy of all your work, as your teacher may require you to submit electronically.

The requirements below correspond with the English course in which the student is enrolled for the 2025-26 school year. Not sure what English class you will take next year? Log in to Focus, Switch to 2025-26 School year, and check "Class Requests". Additionally, if an alternative assignment is requested, please first see specific directions for your upcoming course assignment. Contact your teacher if required for an alternative text. If no contact is provided, choose a novel on the "Florida Teens Read" list <https://www.floridamediaed.org/florida-teens-read>.

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****Plagiarism Policy: Plagiarism** is the uncredited use, whether intentional or unintentional, of others' words or ideas. While some schools may not insist on documenting sources of words or ideas, Hollins High School does. A charge of plagiarism will have severe consequences, including receiving a zero (0) on the assignment, a call to the student's parents, and, in the case of Dual Enrollment Composition I and II, a failing grade for the course.

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You will turn in completed assignments to your English teacher in August. Please keep an electronic copy of all your work, as your teacher may require you to submit electronically.

Entering English 1 Honors, English 2 Honors, pre-AICE Literature, and English 4

All students entering English 1 Honors, English 2 Honors, pre-AICE Literature, and English 4 will be given the opportunity to earn EXTRA CREDIT for a completed summer reading requirement. Although it is not required, completing summer reading is a great way to start of the year with an “A”! To complete the assignment students will select a novel from the “Florida Teens Read” list <https://www.floridamediaed.org/florida-teens-read>. These titles are available in libraries and bookstores, or you can read them online using **SORA** (Clever > Sora > Collections > Florida Teens Read). Titles from last year or this year are acceptable.

Please note that these novels represent various themes and some contain mature content. Review the selections with a parent or guardian before finalizing your selection

After you Read: Respond to ONE of the prompts below. Do NOT just summarize what you’ve read. Your response should be 200-250 words in length, typed. Please save an electronic copy. Your teacher will help you to submit your work when we return to class in August.

- A. Write a “Journal Entry” from the perspective (POV) or one of the characters discussing the events of the book. Include details from the text.
- B. Write a “Newspaper” article about the events of the book. Include details from the text. Pictures and other details add a nice touch.
- C. Choose a **character** from the novel, and discuss how the character changes or matures over course of the novel. How do they change the way they interact with other characters? What lessons do they learn? Include details from the text to support your response.
- D. Discuss the **problems** (conflicts) the main characters face in the novel. How are they resolved? What does the resolution say about the author’s purpose in writing the novel? Include details from the text to support your response.
- E. Create a graphic novel (comic / manga) portraying the most important scene or scenes in the novel. Include DIALOGUE and NARRATION. Stick figures are ok, but COLOR and NEATNESS are required (no pencil drawings scribbled on notebook paper). If you choose to go digital, save an electronic version of your work.

Entering Pre-AICE English Language IGCSE (9th grade honors English)

Students entering Pre-AICE Language will be given the opportunity to earn EXTRA CREDIT for a completed summer reading requirement. Although it is not required, completing summer reading is a great way to start of the year with an “A”!

Complete a close reading of the following novel and complete the following assignment:

The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls

1.) 500 Word Essay

Write a 500+ word essay analyzing why this novel should be studied. In addition, also discuss the author’s use of language and literary devices to illustrate one or more major themes in the novel.

Examples of literary devices include Alliteration, Metaphors, Descriptive Language, Personification, etc.

Essay should be typed, double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font.

Save an electronic copy of your work, your teacher will help you to submit it when we return to school in August.

**(Viewing the film is not an appropriate substitute for reading the book as there are many differences in plot and events)*

Entering AICE General Paper (9th or 10th grade Cambridge / 10th, 11th, 12th grade Honors option)

AICE General Paper Summer Reading, 2025

Students in General Paper have a **choice** of **either** of two books to read:

Nickled and Dimed (non-fiction) **by Barbara Ehrenreich** is the story of a journalist’s first-hand efforts to live on the wages of a waitress, hotel maid, house cleaner, nursing-home aide and Wal-Mart associate. The account raises provocative questions regarding poverty and income-inequality in the richest country in the world.

OR

A Long Way Gone (memoir) **by Ishmael Beah** recounts his experiences as a child soldier in Sierra Leone during that country’s brutal war and his ultimate rescue. The story explores the horrors of war and its impact on children and celebrates the ultimate resilience of the human spirit.

Note:

Be prepared for an assignment based on your reading the first full week of school.
Enjoy the book and have a great summer!

Entering AICE Thinking Skills AS Level

Read *A Study in Scarlet* by Arthur Conan Doyle, and write a fully developed, expository essay analyzing the method Holmes uses to investigate the crime. Also, be ready to take a short quiz on the story elements within the first week of class.

Entering AICE Thinking Skills A Level

Read *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Arthur Conan Doyle, and construct a reasoned argument to support or challenge this claim ‘Sherlock Holmes is the hero that Victorian London needed, not the one it deserved.’ Comment critically on the text and at least one external source. Also, be ready to take a short quiz on the story elements within the first week of class.

Entering Dual Enrollment Composition I / II

Ray Bradbury (1920-2012) was one of the leading writers of science fiction of the twentieth century. His most popular novel *Fahrenheit 451* was published in 1953. Here is a link to the novel <https://www.humbleisd.net/cms/lib2/TX01001414/Centricity/Domain/6853/Fahrenheit%20451%20-%20Ray%20Bradbury%20-%201.pdf> Or you can find a copy in your local library.

***Fahrenheit 451* - Essay questions**

Choose one of the following topics and write a five-paragraph essay using at least six examples from the novel (at least four of which need to be direct quotations) to prove your thesis. There should be a clear thesis and topic with specific examples from the book. You also need to explain your examples. It should be evident from your essay that you have read and understood the novel. Any evidence of plagiarism will result in an automatic zero. The essay will serve as your first grade of the upcoming year. This essay needs to be 800 words, Times New Roman, Size 12 Font, and needs to be printed off and turned in on the first day of school—No exceptions! Make sure to save your essay turn it in on Turnitin.com in the first week.

Essay options---choose one.

1. Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* may be read as a parable about censorship. The author, for instance, responded with anger when correspondents criticized his *Martian Chronicles* for their portrayal of women and minorities. What does the book suggest about the consequences of censorship? Do you agree with Bradbury's message? Is censorship always destructive, or are certain ideas, or ways of expressing those ideas, so harmful that society should be protected from them?
2. Analyze the character of Captain Beatty in Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*. He is a book burner, yet he has a broad and deep knowledge of books. To what extent do you believe that he himself is convinced by the arguments he presents to Montag? What underlying beliefs drive the actions of such a man? Did he want to die, as Montag believed? You will need to do some speculating but support your speculations with specific incidents and quotations from the novel.
3. To what extent is Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* a commentary on modern forms of entertainment? What is his view of the way in which people today spend their leisure time? Do you think his assessment would have changed had the novel been written fifty years later than its publication date of 1953?

Entering AICE English Language (10th - 12th grade Cambridge / Honors option)

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon is, in part, a murder mystery narrated by Christopher John Francis Boone. After reading the book, you are to expand on Christopher's story now that the novel's ended: First, choose a chapter number (and remember it must be a prime number). Then recount any new and **original** event (take him to the beach, or a chess match, or wherever you'd like) or single day in the life of 15-year-old Christopher as if he were narrating it -- in other words, mimic Christopher's voice. The one departure you can make from the novel is that Christopher may be a teenager from St. Petersburg rather than an English boy; otherwise you must be true to Christopher's character. Minimum word length: 600 words.

Note :

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me over the summer at rogowskil@pcsb.org.

The assignment must be typed in 12-pt. Times New Roman and double-spaced with 1-inch margins.

Enjoy the book and have a great summer!

Entering AICE English Language A Level (Must have completed AS Level)

Please contact Dr. Rogowski (rogowskil@pcsb.org) for information about readings and assignments if you are entering A Level English Language in the fall.

Entering AICE English Literature AS (11th- 12th grade)

For a full list of readings, information about A-Levels, or any other inquiries, contact Ms. Edwards (edwardssa@pcsb.org) / www.cie.org.uk (9695 syllabus for 2026 exam).

The Underground Railroad (2016) by Colson Whitehead [TW: mature content]

Copies of the novel are available in our Media Center and through Sora (Clever > Sora > Search Title)

This novel is REQUIRED READING for AICE Literature students. *Cambridge has assigned this text- we will study it in class, and it will appear on your AICE exam in the spring.*

Read the entire novel. Write in your book (if you purchased your own copy). Take notes. Use tabs and post-its to mark important passages. You may wish to keep track of characters and make a timeline. Look up any words, names, locations, cultural issues, or historical events with which you are unfamiliar (esp. anything you can find about the trans-Atlantic slave trade, American chattel slavery, fugitive slave laws, the *actual* / *historical* “Underground Railroad”, lynching / spectacle violence, etc...) A MAP of the eastern United States may help you to visualize Cora’s travels.

Important! This book is inspired by history, but it is a work of fiction. Think of it as alternate history like Steam Punk. **There were no actual trains on the Underground Railroad!**

You may also wish to discuss the book informally with friends or organize a book club to form a deeper understanding and appreciation of the novel and help one another process any difficult or disturbing passages.

Do NOT spend time looking for online summaries or analyses of the book. *Do NOT watch the Amazon mini-series or online / video reviews- they will NOT replace a careful reading of the text.*

Bring your notes and your book to class, and be prepared for **QUIZZES, DISCUSSIONS,** and a **PROJECT** by the **SECOND WEEK OF SCHOOL.** These assignments will count for at least a full letter grade for the first grading period AND the book will appear on your semester exam.

Entering AICE English Literature A Level

(You must have completed or be concurrently enrolled in AS Level)

Please obtain a copy of this novel, but **do not begin reading it until you receive a reading schedule in the fall.** *Beloved* by Toni Morrison [TW: mature content].

Cambridge has assigned this text- we will study it in class, and it will appear on your AICE exam in the spring.

You may wish to research the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the African experience living under American chattel slavery, fugitive slave laws, and the true story of Margaret Garner (the woman who inspired Toni Morrison to write this novel). **Do NOT watch the movie.**