

St. Thomas More High School 2018 Summer Reading

While the summer is a time to recuperate and enjoy time away from the stresses of school, it is important to keep your minds engaged in reading to ensure skill retention. Therefore, the English Department is requiring summer reading for all English classes for all sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The English Department has chosen novels related to topics students will explore early in the year. For example, sophomores will be reading an American author in preparation for their class in American Literature. In addition, the English Department has chosen novels that they believe are relatable and correlate to the expected reading grade level.

Students may purchase these novels at any bookstore, or they may go to a local library and check them out. The English Department does not require any specific edition or version of the texts below. The Department plans on incorporating the novels into their instruction for approximately the first two weeks of the first quarter, so they advise you to read actively through notetaking and have access to the novel for those first two weeks. Students will be expected to prepare for an essay and/or other assessments based on one of the provided prompts below. Students may be tempted to potentially skirt corners and watch the movie of a novel if it is available, but movies often change plot elements and characters from its novel origination.

This information is also posted on the school website by clicking on the “Academics” tab and selecting the English Department page. If you have any questions, please contact either Mr. Wolffersdorff or Mr. Dineen.

Sincerely,

Mr. Wolffersdorff
ewolffersdorff@tmore.org
English Department Chair

Mr. Dineen
kdineen@tmore.org
Dean of Academics

Novel Titles for 2018/2019 School Year

Incoming Freshmen (Class of 2022)

Noredink.com Diagnostic English Tests

Incoming Sophomores (Class of 2021)

A Lesson Before Dying – Ernest J. Gaines

Incoming Juniors (Class of 2020)

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde – Robert Louis Stevenson

Background reading link: <http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael9/section/vole/overview.aspx>

Incoming Seniors (Class of 2019)

Life of Pi - Yann Martel

Please note that students in AP Language and Composition and AP Literature and Composition have separate independent summer reading assignments and are not to complete the above assignment.

2018 Summer Reading Essay Prompts

Directions: As you read and finish your novel, consider the following essay prompts. Within the first couple days back to school, you will be expected to write an in-class essay on one of these prompts. Prompts will be chosen randomly, so it is advised that you prepare an essay outline for each prompt.

Dreams and Reality:

Examine how the characters in the novel distinguish their dreams from the reality of the world around them. This can be seen by the character's development over the course of the story. Consider what drives the character to make decisions, how the character views him/herself, and how the character undergoes change throughout the story. With these character elements in mind, analyze how the characters' dreams and perceptions of reality progress throughout the course of the novel and consider the significance of these progressions.

Shaped by the Period:

Evidence of historical and class influence flows throughout the literary elements of a written work. Consider how the author represents the social classes and historical time period through character, plot, and/or setting. Analyze how social class and historical setting influences the characters and the overall message about class and time period that the author conveys.

Themes:

Themes are oftentimes moral or societal issues characters confront within a text. As readers, we mistakenly think of themes as topics like romance, relationships, growing up, courage, revenge, belonging, isolation, hope, suffering, facing great obstacles, etc. A theme is more than just an important topic within a text—it is what the author wants you to recognize or understand about a topic. As you read, consider at least one theme presented by the author as well as how this theme develops and changes over the course of the text and the significance of this message.

Setting:

Consider the setting elements present in your novel such as: primary locations, setting changes throughout the text, historical and literary time period, setting details and descriptions, settings of flashbacks/past events, etc. How does each character react and interact emotionally and/or physically with each setting? Analyze the purpose, effect, and significance of the settings in the novel and how each setting develops the events and messages.