

## ESHS Summer Reading 2025

### English CP Summer Reading

#### Required for Grades 9-12

*\*English 11 CP only (Strongly encouraged and will convert to extra credit if completed)*

The El Segundo Public library has created an ESHS challenge within their Teen Summer Reading Program. To complete the ESHS English Summer Reading Assignment, please do the following:

- Read a book of your choice from the teen or adult section that is at least 200 pages long.
- Read one article. It can be from a library online resource found in the Homework Help Section on the Digital Library page.
- Watch one documentary. It can be from Kanopy.
- Download certificate here. Enter information and submit it to your teacher in the fall.

We would love for you to continue with the ESPL Summer Reading program for the rest of the summer, but once you have that ESHS Activity Certificate, your summer reading requirement is complete.

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### English Honors and AP Summer Reading & Assignments

#### Honors English 9 (Required) 2025 Summer Reading Assignment

##### Instructions

This summer you will be completing a summer reading packet in which you will read and annotate three short stories and four personal narratives. After reading and annotating, you will also complete a Narrative Feedback Form for each text as well. Your annotations and feedback forms will be due on the second day of school, **Wednesday, August 27, 2025**.

##### Annotation Guidelines

Annotating involves marking up/writing on a text while you are reading it. This is done to help you better comprehend what you are reading, rather than just reading passively. This means while you are reading you should have a pen, pencil, or stylus in your hand and mark up the text with some of your thoughts, comments, and ideas. Techniques for annotating include:

- Summarizing or Paraphrasing
- Your Personal Thoughts or Reactions
- Doodles or Drawings of Characters/Scenes/Symbols
- Questions/Predictions
- Define Words or Identify Figurative Language

Students often like to highlight as a form of annotation, but it is probably the most passive method of doing so. Please try to utilize the other methods mentioned above. You should aim to have approximately

2-5 annotations per page of text. Think critically about the texts as you read, and think about what types of annotations are most useful for you as a learner when you are trying to grasp a text.

### **Short Stories**

- “The Cold Equations” by Tom Godwin
- “The Long Rain” by Ray Bradbury
- “Rules of the Game” by Amy Tan

### **Personal Narratives**

- “The Bottom of a Swimming Pool” by Annie Johnson
- “Perfectly Pan-Fried Tofu” by Charis June Lee
- “Save the Bees” by ESHS Student, Class of 2025
- “Don’t Fall Asleep” by ESHS Student, Class of 2026

Click here to access all the texts: [All Texts as a Single PDF](#)

### **Turning in Your Work**

- Annotations
  - Your annotations may be done digitally, just make sure you have a way to save them as a PDF so you will be able to submit them when school starts.
  - Your annotations may also be done on paper, feel free to print out the short stories and mark directly on them. Please bring the annotated copies to school on the first day of class.
- Narrative Feedback Forms
  - Your [Narrative Feedback Form](#) for each text (seven total) may be handwritten or digital, but if you choose to do them digitally just make sure you have a way to submit them as PDFs when we meet during the first week of school, or have them as hand written papers to submit.

### **Further Questions**

If you have any further questions please reach out to Ms. Strawn at [astrawn@esusd.net](mailto:astrawn@esusd.net)

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## **English 10 Honors (Required)**

**1. Task:** Students will read and watch four items from the categories listed below. Then, students will complete two writing tasks, detailed below.

- Short Story** - "The Paper Menagerie" by Ken Liu ([linked here](#))
- Article** - "Magical Realism, A Political Tool for the Marginalized to Rewrite Histories" by Ananja Bhardwaj ([linked here](#))
- TED Talk** - “The Power of Advocacy” - Xiomara Torres ([linked here](#))
- Movie** (Options - watch one)
  - *Hidden Figures*: 2016 (PG)
  - *The Peanut Butter Falcon*: 2019 (PG-13)
  - *Rustin*: 2023 (PG-13)
  - *In The Heights*: 2021 (PG-13)
  - *The Joy Luck Club*: 1993 (PG-13)

**2. Assignment:** After reading all three texts and one movie, students will complete the conversational round-table graphic organizer ([linked here](#)) with a short summary and an answer to the following question: *What is the overarching theme that connects these four texts/ media?*

Write a one-page essay on a separate sheet of paper discussing this theme. Pick three of the four texts/ media to include, with this question as a prompt: *How is the theme expressed in three different texts/ media?*

The graphic organizer and one-page essay are due on the first day of class. If you have any further questions, please reach out to Mrs. Kim Stern at [ksstern@esUSD.net](mailto:ksstern@esUSD.net).

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### **AP English Literature & Composition (Required)**

1. *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley – Victor Frankenstein’s experiment to create life from death is a cautionary tale warning of the dangers that can arise from experimental science. Written 1818, this novel is “well known”, but misunderstood. Ultimately, who is the “monster”? text [pdf](#)
2. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor Revised: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines* by Thomas C. Foster - An introduction to literature and literary basics, including symbols, themes, and contexts—shows students how to make the everyday reading experience more rewarding and enjoyable. [text pdf](#)

**Assignment:** Read and fully annotate the two required pieces. We will start the year with in-depth discussions, essays and presentations related to the readings, so please make sure you are prepared to begin on the first day of school.

\*Your annotations for the novel should focus on characterization, the use of setting to promote character development/ tone/mood, literary devices, allusions, conflict, and major themes (such as vengeance, rebirth, sorrow, denial).

If you have questions, please contact me (Ms. Kris McNeela) at [kmcneela@esUSD.net](mailto:kmcneela@esUSD.net)

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### **AP English Language & Composition (Required)**

In every class, what we read will be followed with a writing prompt. So that you read with purpose this summer, you are provided the writing assignment which will be given the first week of school. You will have one class period (55 minutes) to write your very first essay and earn a major grade for the semester. The essay will be diagnostic. In other words, we will find out what you can do and what you need to learn. You will be amazed as the year progresses how much you improve!

Review the list below and research several of the books and their authors. Please note that the list you are choosing from are frequently banned and/or challenged, so their topics and subject matter may be controversial. There are many to choose from, so while I do want you to read something new, do your research and choose a book and topic that is still within your, and your family’s comfort level. If you need

help selecting a book, please reach out to one of the AP Lang teachers, [tmcorman@esud.net](mailto:tmcorman@esud.net) and [astrawn@esud.net](mailto:astrawn@esud.net). Over summer it may take us several days to respond, so do not wait until the last minute! Many, if not all, of these books will be free on-line in PDF. Additionally, every ESUSD student has free access to the El Segundo Public Library. If purchasing, consider buying used!

AP Language & Composition is a college-level course. We will be discussing controversial subjects and sensitive topics, not for the sensationalism of them, but to understand the human condition and to explore the ways that we feel, think, and communicate with each other about our common struggles, confusion, joys, sorrows, and weaknesses. There are times when all of us find some subjects objectionable. When we do, some of us may sincerely feel that others should also object and abstain from discussing, writing about, or communicating in certain ways about specific topics. The books below have often been subject to this viewpoint. In other words, these books were considered unfit to be read and discussed!

### **Here is the assignment:**

Select several books from the list below that might interest you. Find out why those books were banned. (You may not choose a book that you have already read in a previous class, though you certainly should research those in order to better understand the assignment.) Finally, select a book you think you will enjoy and which you propose to defend against possible objections. Read the following prompt carefully and keep it in mind. Take notes that will help you collect and organize your ideas & thoughts.

**Prompt:** All kinds of books have been attacked, suppressed, or disapproved of by authorities, groups, or individuals. In a well-planned essay, present reasons why a book that you have read might be attacked and defend it based on a consideration of such matters as its language, the people in it, its mood and spirit, and consequently its message, purpose, and its value for the readers.

If you are interested in a book that is not on the list below, please contact Ms. McDorman ([tmcorman@esud.net](mailto:tmcorman@esud.net)) or Ms. Strawn ([astrawn@esud.net](mailto:astrawn@esud.net)) for approval/guidance.

- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie
- *Looking for Alaska* by John Green
- *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
- *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls
- *Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult
- *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson
- *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley
- *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
- *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood
- *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas
- *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic* by Alison Bechdel
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
- *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien
- *A Child Called "It"* by Dave Pelzer

- *Crank* by Ellen Hopkins
- *Nickel and Dimed* by Barbara Ehrenreich
- *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi
- *Lush* by Natasha Friend
- *The Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger
- *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker
- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon
- *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer
- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- *Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya
- *Dreaming In Cuban* by Cristina Garcia
- *Feed* by M.T. Anderson
- *Habibi* by Craig Thompson
- *House of the Spirits* by Isabel Allende
- *Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov
- *1984* by George Orwell
- *A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess
- *Awakening* by Kate Chopin
- *Burned* by Ellen Hopkins
- *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card
- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou
- *Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks