

Our Lady of Mercy Academy
Summer Reading
2018-2019

In preparation for the 2018-2019 school year, students are required to complete summer reading assignments that will be assessed in several ways. The materials chosen for each grade level are listed below. When school begins, please bring the designated copies of the books to class.

Literature I

Freshmen enrolled in the Literature I course are required to read one book for summer reading, *The Castaway Kid* by R. B. Mitchell. Take notes on this book and be prepared for a test, which will be given during the first week of school. The last page of this handout provides suggestions for note-taking.

Honors Literature I

Students enrolled in the Honors Literature I course are required to read two books. The first one is *The Castaway Kid* by R. B. Mitchell. Be prepared for a test on this book, which will be given during the first week of school. The second one is *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry. This play will be reviewed during the second marking period. Take notes on both books and be prepared for all discussions and assignments. The last page of this handout provides suggestions for note-taking.

*The English department is giving advance notice that during the first semester in Literature I and Honors Literature I freshmen are required to read *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck. Students may read and take notes on this book during the summer as well; however, the book will not be assigned until later in the school year.

Literature II

Sophomores enrolled in the Literature II class must read and be prepared for a test on *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, which will be given during the first week of school. There will not be any classroom review before the test.

Students must also read *The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls. In the first few weeks of school, there will be an in-depth study of this memoir. Take notes on this book and be prepared for all discussions, assignments, and quizzes. A test will be scheduled by mid first quarter.

Honors Literature II

Students enrolled in the Honors Literature II class are also required to read two books. The first one is *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

The other reading requirement is *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros. Be prepared for discussions, assignments, quizzes and/or tests. It is also suggested that students take notes on both books.

*Lastly, the English department is giving advance notice that *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles will be assigned during the school year. All sophomores may take advantage of getting acquainted with this novel ahead of time.

American Literature & Honors American Literature

All juniors must read and be prepared for a test on *Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years* by Sarah L. Delany, A. Elizabeth Delany, and Amy Hill Hearth, which will be given during the first week of school. There will not be any classroom review on this memoir before the test.

The other reading requirement is *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. In the first few weeks of school, there will be an in-depth study of this novel. Students must bring the novel to class and be prepared for all discussions, assignments, and quizzes. A test will be scheduled by mid first quarter.

*Lastly, the English department is giving advance notice that in Honors American Literature students are required to read *O Pioneers!* by Willa Cather, which will be assigned during the second semester of school. Students in this course may take advantage of getting acquainted with this novel ahead of time.

British Literature

Seniors enrolled in the British Literature class are required to read the novel *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom. In the first few weeks of school, there will be an in-depth study of this novel. Students must bring the novel to class and be prepared for all discussions, assignments, and quizzes. A test will be scheduled by mid first quarter.

Students must also choose a young adult/teen novel, published after 2000, or any classic novel that has not been on OLMA's summer reading list to read. This book must be appropriate for school, interesting to you, and at your reading skill level. Due to the mature content of some contemporary literature, you are advised to preview the books before making your selection. Therefore, **be sure your parents approve of your choice**. Students are required to write a literary analysis on either the main character or the theme of the novel. The essay must be submitted to www.turnitin.com.

Suggested Links for Titles

There are several websites in which to choose young adult literature and classic literature. Here are a few examples:

- 2017 Book Lists from Goodreads website
 - <https://www.goodreads.com/list/tag/2017>
- The *New York Times* Best Sellers List for Young Adult Literature
 - <http://www.nytimes.com/best-sellers-books/young-adult/list.html>.
- The College Board has a list of 101 Books for the College-Bound Student
 - <http://www.greatschools.org/students/books/412-recommended-college-bound.gs>.

Honors British Literature

Seniors enrolled in the Honors British Literature class are required to read two books for summer reading—*The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom and *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë. Please bring copies of the books to class and be prepared for all discussions, writing assignments, tests, etc. Student should take notes on both books.

*Lastly, the English department is giving advance notice that *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens will be assigned during the first semester of school. Students in Honors British Literature may take advantage of getting acquainted with this novel ahead of time.

AP English Literature & Composition

Those seniors enrolled in the AP Literature course are required to read the novel *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë and *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines, Revised Edition* by Thomas C. Foster, which is an “introduction to literature and literary basics, including symbols, themes, and contexts” (Quoted from Amazon.com). Take notes on both books and bring them to class. Be prepared for all discussions, assignments, etc.

While reading, take careful notes which students will be able to consult during class discussions. Because students will be tested on the details of the book, use the following as a guideline in taking notes:

- Know the title and author of the book. What is the significance of the title? Explain.
- What is the point of view?
 - omniscient point of view (the all-knowing)
 - first-person point of view (who is / are the narrators?)
 - third-person limited point of view
- What is the setting?
- What is the time period?
 - What is the duration of the story?
 - Where did the action take place?
 - Where else did the action take place?
- Who are the characters?
 - Who are the main characters? The protagonist? Is there an antagonist? If so, who?
 - What does each character look like?
 - What is the personality of each character?
 - Do any of the characters undergo any changes or learn something about themselves and the world?
- Know (in chronological order) the sequence of events, especially by chapter, or act and scene.
- Be able to summarize the problems of each main character and each resolution.
- Be able to recognize any suspense, foreshadowing, or flashback in the story.
- What is the theme of the story? There could be more than one main idea or purpose of the story.
- What is the tone of the story?
- What is the mood of the story?

Have a great summer!

