

English IV
Summer Reading Assignments
New Albany High School

TEXT: **Select one novel from the attached list.**

MATERIALS: Loose leaf notebook paper
 Blue or black ink only

FORMATTING: Begin each of the assignments on a new page. Each assignment should have the student's name and the name of the text in the top left corner of the page. Staple the pages of the assignment together.

The assignments should be handwritten in blue or black ink.

Write in complete sentences.

GRADE VALUE: The summer assignment counts as a major grade. The assignment is due the second day of school; your grade will drop a letter grade for each day the assignment is late.

Students should thoroughly read the book, not just one of the many summaries that are widely available.

Students should do their own work on the summer assignment. Copying the work of other students or material that is available on the internet is considered plagiarism and will result in a grade of zero.

Students may discuss the novel with classmates, but should not work in groups to complete assignments. One purpose of the summer assignments is for the teacher to get a sense of each student's personal voice and writing style.

Students should use their best organizational and writing skills and proofread carefully for grammatical errors. Be sure to follow all instructions.

Assignment for selected novel:

1. Select **five** quotes from the novel which show *direct characterization* of one or more of the major characters. Write each quote and a brief explanation of the characterization.

Direct characterization – the writer tells the reader what a character is like.

Example: “Walter looked as if he had been raised on fish food: his eyes, as blue as Dill Harris’s, were red-rimmed and watery. There was no color in his face except at the tip of his nose, which was moistly pink. He fingered the straps of his overalls, nervously picking at the metal hooks.” (To Kill a Mockingbird, page 30)

Harper Lee gives a physical description of Walter Cunningham, using specific details to provide the reader with an image of the character’s face and his nervous actions.

2. Select **five** quotes from the novel which show *indirect characterization* of one or more of the major characters. Write each quote and a brief explanation of the characterization.

Indirect characterization – the reader must put together clues to figure out what characters are like (infer), such as how they look/dress, what they say and the language they use to say it, what other people say about them, and what they do

Inference - a conclusion reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning

Example: ““Jean Louise, there is no doubt in my mind that they’re good folks. But they’re not our kind of folks,’ ...said Aunt Alexandra. ‘The thing is, you can scrub Walter Cunningham till he shines, you can put him in shoes and a new suit, but he’ll never be like Jem.’”

The reader can infer from Aunt Alexander’s comments that she is judgmental and that she labels people according to their social class.

3. With which major character from the novel do you most closely identify? In a three paragraph essay, explain how you are like the character you select. Use evidence from the novel to support your answer.

Regular English IV Summer Reading List

1. ***Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury** - American satire set in twenty-fourth century, written as a response to Cold War atmosphere after World War II and McCarthyism; argument against censorship emphasizes evils of suppressing ideas.
2. ***Fallen Angels* by Walter Dean Myers** - Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.
3. ***Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson** - Melinda Sordino busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops. Now her old friends won't talk to her, and people she doesn't even know hate her from a distance. The safest place to be is alone, inside her own head. But even that's not safe. Because there's something she's trying not to think about, something about the night of the party that, if she let it in, would blow her carefully constructed disguise to smithereens.
4. ***Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell** - Left alone on a beautiful but isolated island off the coast of California, a young Indian girl spends eighteen years, not only merely surviving through her enormous courage and self-reliance, but also finding a measure of happiness in her solitary life.
5. ***The Hobbit* by JRR Tolkien** - A fairy story of a hobbit's heroic journey toward greater awareness; good versus evil; explores the heart, soul, and imagination
6. ***Breathing Underwater* by Alex Flinn** - Sent to counseling for hitting his girlfriend, Caitlin, and ordered to keep a journal, sixteen-year-old Nick recounts his relationship with Caitlin, examines his controlling behavior and anger, and describes living with his abusive father.
7. ***Forever* by Judy Blume** - Although they attend different schools, the pair get together every chance they can, and their relationship deepens. Then, summer comes, and family plans pull them apart. They write each other often and plan to reunite as soon as they can, but life—and love—can be unexpected.
8. ***The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain** - Mark Twain's classic novel, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, tells the story of a teenaged misfit who finds himself floating on a raft down the Mississippi River with an escaping slave, Jim. In the course of their perilous journey, Huck and Jim meet adventure, danger, and a cast of characters who are sometimes menacing and often hilarious.

9. ***Running Loose* by Chris Crutcher** - a boy's senior year in high school goes awry when he's kicked off the football team for taking a stand against the coach, and his girlfriend is killed in a car accident.

10. ***Eclipse* by Stephanie Meyer** - The third episode of Meyer's vampire-romance series finds heroine Bella Swan anxious to become a vampire and live forever with handsome vampire Edward. Obstacles arise when Edward demands marriage and werewolf Jacob declares his love for Bella. Eventually, the Cullen vampires and the Quileute werewolves unite to face off against a pack of uncontrollable vampires seeking revenge on Bella.