

English I
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 I Summer Reading List

1. ***My Dog Skip* by Willie Morris** - Set in the 1940s and based on the memoir by Willie Morris, *My Dog Skip* is the story of a boy and his dog growing up together in Yazoo, Mississippi.
2. ***The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* by Ann Brashares** - Carmen got the jeans at a thrift shop. On the night before she and her friends part for the summer, Carmen decides to toss them. But Tibby, Lena and Bridget think they're fabulous. Lena decides that they should all try them on. Nobody knows why, but the pants fit everyone perfectly. They decide to form a sisterhood and take the vow of the Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants.
3. ***The Giver* by Lois Lowry** - At the age of twelve, Jonas, a young boy from a seemingly utopian, futuristic world, is singled out to receive special training from The Giver, who alone holds the memories of the true joys and pain of life.
4. ***The Last Song* by Nicholas Sparks** - Seventeen year-old Veronica "Ronnie" Miller's life was turned upside-down when her parents divorced and her father moved from New York City to Wilmington, North Carolina. Three years later, she remains angry and alienated from her parents, especially her father... until her mother decides it would be in everyone's best interest if she spent the summer in Wilmington with him.
5. ***Nothing But the Truth* by Avi** - A ninth-grader's suspension for singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" during homeroom becomes a national news story.
6. ***Bean Tree* by Barbara Kingsolver** - Taylor Greer leaves her native Kentucky to head west. She becomes mother to an abandoned baby and, when her jalopy dies in Tucson, is forced to work in a tire garage and to room with a young, battered divorcee who also has a little girl. With sisterly counsel and personal honesty, the two face their painful lot.
7. ***Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card** - Once again, the Earth is under attack. Alien "buggers" are poised for a final assault. The survival of the human species depends on a military genius who can defeat the buggers. But who? Ender Wiggin. He's brilliant, ruthless, cunning . . . and a child.
8. ***Rocket Boys* by Homer Hickam** - Rocket Boys is a uniquely American memoir - a powerful, luminous story of coming of age at the dawn of the 1960s, of a mother's love and a father's fears, of a group of young men who dreamed of launching rockets into outer space... and who made those dreams come true.
9. ***Twilight* by Stephanie Meyer** - Bella Swan's move to Forks, a small, perpetually rainy town in Washington, could have been the most boring move she ever made.

But once she meets the mysterious and alluring Edward Cullen, Bella's life takes a thrilling and terrifying turn. Up until now, Edward has managed to keep his vampire identity a secret in the small community he lives in, but now nobody is safe, especially Bella, the person Edward holds most dear.

10. ***Shoeless Joe* by W. P. Kinsella** - He went to Canada in the 1960's to avoid the draft. Now, back in the USA, he has a vision: build a ballpark in an Iowa cornfield "if you build it they will come." Two who do are the tragic ballplayer, Joe Jackson and the lead's father. This affecting novel was the basis of the *Field of Dreams*, Kevin Costner's landmark 1980's film.