

English III – Honors**PRE-COURSE READING**

Why pre-course reading? Reading increases students' vocabulary, spelling, and writing skills, as well as help students gain new perspectives on life situations. The more reading people do, the more information they gain, and the better their reading skills become. Reading is an effective means of preparing for standardized tests such as the ACT.



***A note to parents: Please review the selection with your student because some books may make references to societal events and language that you may wish to discuss with your child.

Step 1: Select one (1) book from each list (fiction and nonfiction) to read this summer.

Fiction – read one:

Catcher in the Rye – J.D. Salinger

The March – E.L. Doctorow

Forever – Pete Hamill
Clark

The Ox Bow Incident – Walter Van Tilburg

House of Mirth – Edith Wharton

Song Yet Sung – James McBride

House made of Dawn – N. Scott Momaday

Little Women – Louisa May Alcott

Invisible Man – Ralph Ellison

The Color Purple – Alice Walker

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn – Mark Twain

Time and Again – Jack Finney

The Sound and the Fury – William Faulkner

Nonfiction – read one:

Assassination Vacation – Sarah Vowell

Through Painted Deserts – Donald Miller

Great Plains – Ian Frazier

In Cold Blood -- Truman Capote

Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer – James L. Swanson

A Walk across America – Peter Jenkins

Sisters': The Lives of America's Suffragists – Jean H. Baker

Snow Storm in August: Washington City, Francis Scott Key, and the Forgotten Race Riot of 1835
– Jefferson Morley

Bunch of Amateurs: A Search for the American Character – Jack Hitt

Step 2: **Annotate** your books using the following guidelines:

1. Use sticky notes to identify the following:
 - Words/phrases/sentences whose style stand out to you
 - Significant people/characters and their “revealing” words and actions
 - Aspects that illustrate something about America
2. Put the sticky notes on loose leaf paper identifying page #'s.
3. Identify what you are noting from the list in #1.
4. Comment: Why are you marking this passage? Why does it stand out? Why is it significant? What do you like/dislike about it? How does it build the plot (fiction or argument (nonfiction))?
5. Do not just summarize.
6. You must note in every chapter and section.
7. As a guideline make 30-50 notes.
8. Be prepared to bring annotations to class the 1st week of school.

Reading Assessment:

- ~ You will write an essay using one of the books as support and complete a project using the other.
- ~ Details, directions, and rubrics for these assessments will be provided the 1st week of school.
- ~ These assessments typically will take place within the first three weeks of the first semester.