

English 9 Honors Summer Assignments 2025-2026

Welcome to English 9H! I'm looking forward to working with you over the next academic year to continue to develop your reading, writing, and language skills.

This summer assignment will help prepare you for the work to come this year as well as for the remainder of your secondary education. If you have questions about it, please contact me directly at gabouryv@apcsd.org. I may not check e-mail daily in the summer, but I will get back to you as soon as I can.

I strongly recommend that you pace yourself and possibly start this assignment at the beginning of summer; it is due our first class in September, and you don't want to rush it. There are **TWO** parts to this Summer Assignment: **A non-fiction Generations reading and writing, and a fiction read.**

What would a summer English assignment be without a little reading? 😊

1) Generations: Non-Fiction

While reading is often a solitary experience when you're not in school, you're going to read with another person for this assignment. The reason I call this activity **Generations** is that the person with whom you read needs to be someone significantly older than you. In addition, your reading selection must be a work of non-fiction.

- **First: decide with whom you would like to read.** It might be a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, godparent, or an older family friend.
- **Next: decide, with your partner, what you will read.** It must be a book that you can both access in some form. I would prefer that you choose a book that is new to you and challenging to you. The work should be a work of non-fiction, like a travel book, true life adventure story, a historical story, or a collection of essays or biography. We all have our old favorites, but this is about sharing the experience of reading, so a work that is new to you both will be the most genuine for this assignment.

- **Next, read.** You don't need to sit down and read together, though that can be fun. You should periodically make time to have a discussion with your partner about what is happening in the book, writing techniques you have observed, surprises or challenges in the text, and messages or interpretations that you can take from the book.
- **Finally: interview your partner and write it up.** After you have both finished the book, interview your partner about the book and your shared reading process. The questions follow. You'll need to write out answers to the questions in the form of an engaging essay of at least two pages (typed, double-spaced, size 12 Times New Roman font), **not just as a numbered list.**

Interview Questions:

1. Describe your partner. Who are they? How do you differ generationally?
2. What book did you read together and how did you choose it? Briefly describe the content of the book and how you chose it.
3. What structure and techniques do you see the author using? Why do you think these writing techniques were chosen? How do they enhance the writing/book?
4. How do the differences in age affect your reading and interpretation of the text? (In other words, did the age and experience of each reader give a different experience of the book?) Were there things in the story that one of you noticed that your partner didn't? Why do you think that might be?
5. Do either of you think the author wrote the book for a specific audience? What evidence from the book gives you your answer?
6. What can be gained from reading alongside someone with different experiences than yourself? How did reading this book along with a person of another age group affect each of you?

2) Fiction

Choose any fiction book, relax, enjoy it, and be ready to share about it when you return to class. We will be doing an in-class writing assignment and a mini-project about the book in the first week of school. You are not required to do anything with this assignment during the summer other than read...but you may want to take notes to refresh your memory when we work on it together.

- **First, choose a book and read.**
- **Take notes to better remember (suggested, optional).** You might want to take some notes on the following aspects: plot, setting, characters, theme, literary devices.

*Also consider: what genre/author you choose when given the choice, and why you choose it; did you choose a book to really relax, or secretly impress? :) Do you read 'assignment' books differently than you do from books you just read to relax with?

*** Next,** bring notes to class the ***first day*** and be ready to share this information in a class writing. We will also do a mini-project. Nothing needs to be written prior to class for this half of the summer assignment. Enjoy the book!

First day of class:

1) Bring Non-Fiction Generations assignment or be ready to upload to the GoogleClassroom once the Block Classes are set up (once I get a schedule I can start the 'real' class Classrooms).

2) Also bring the notes for your Fiction reading assignment. You may bring the book too if you would like.

Have a great summer!

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