Our objective in assigning our students summer reading includes the following: to provide them with meaningful, relevant selections that will help foster their critical reading and analytical skills and hopefully spark a new curiosity and appreciation for literature, as well as the wondrous world around them.

We provide a variety of assessments, including projects, writing assignments, and objective tests. These will all be completed by the end of the second week of school (specific dates will be provided by English teachers in September). These assessments enable our students to demonstrate their comprehension of the books they read, as well as their ability to analyze and connect with the literature.

FRESHMEN

Honors English I

Required Books:

7 Habits for Highly Effective Teens – Sean Covey
I Am the Messenger – Markus Zusak

Choose 1 of the Following:

Wonder – R.J. Palaci
Everything is Illuminated – Jonathan Safran Foer
A Lesson Before Dying – Ernest Gaines
Girl in Translation – Jean Kwok

Required Assessments:

A. Create an original SparkNotes booklet for the book you choose to read.

Instructions:

1. On 8 ½ x 11 paper, create a Spark Notes booklet. The cover should include your name, title and author of the book. All text inside of the booklet should be typed in Times New Roman, size 12 font.

2. Based on your reading of the book, you should provide the following inside the booklet:

   - Plot Overview (2-3 paragraphs)
   - Summary & Analysis of 2 Major Scenes in the Book (1-2 paragraphs each)
   - Analysis of 2 Major Characters in the Book (1-2 paragraphs each)
   - 3 Important Quotations Explained (3-5 sentences)
   - 2 Essay Questions Related to the Book (questions only)
   - An Explanation of the Main Theme of the Book (1-2 paragraphs)

B. Be prepared to discuss as a class and write an individual in-class essay on I Am the Messenger.
**Accelerated College Prep English I**

**Required Books:**
- *7 Habits for Highly Effective Teens* – Steven Covey
- *My Beloved World* – Sonia Sotomayor

**Choose 1 of the Following:**
- *Fahrenheit 451* – Ray Bradbury
- *Of Mice and Men* – John Steinbeck
- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* – Sherman Alexie

**Required Assessments:**

A. Based upon the book you choose to read, select one of these projects (either 1 or 2):

1. On 8 ½ x 11 paper, create a magazine that includes the following:
   - A cover that includes the name of the magazine, a visual (illustration, photo, collage, etc.), and 3-5 headlines.
   - 1 article that discusses an important event in the book (at least 3 paragraphs, typed in Times New Roman, size 12 font, double-spaced).
   - 1 article in the form of an interview that profiles one of the main characters in the book (4-5 questions/answers, typed in Times New Roman, size 12 font, double-spaced).
   - 2 advertisements related to the setting and time period of the book.
   - An entertainment/gossip column page that includes headlines, pictures, captions, etc., based on details of the book.

2. In one college-ruled spiral, composition, or loose-leaf notebook, create a reading journal that includes the following:
   - A brief summary of each chapter.
   - 3-5 illustrations of scenes (accompanied by captions) from the book that you feel are significant.
   - Write an analysis of the main character in 3 parts: when you first meet the character; in the middle of the book; and at the end of the book. Describe the main character’s personality, strengths/weaknesses, interests, etc. Do you like the character? Can you relate to the character? Does the character change by the middle and/or the end of the book?
   - At the end of your reading journal, write a letter to the author. In your letter you will explain your overall opinion of the book and what you believe its main theme to be.

B. Based upon their required reading of *My Beloved World*, students must answer each of the questions listed below in 1-2 well-developed, well-written paragraphs. Answers should include specific references to the book and be typed in Times New Roman, size 12, double-spaced.

1. In what ways are the hardships in Sotomayor’s household—the lack of financial resources, her father’s alcoholism, and the tension between her parents—exacerbated by the strains of living in a marginalized society? What family or cultural traditions help mitigate the difficulties she and her family face? Are there traditions in other cultures including your own that serve the same function?
2. How have Sotomayor’s strong attachments to her community, family, and friends shaped her personality and unique perspective? How do they reflect the attitudes she acquired growing up in a Puerto Rican culture?

3. At Yale Law School, Sotomayor met José Cabranes, whom she calls “the first person I can describe as a true mentor.” What does Cabranes represent to her? How do the mentors Sotomayor meets at various stages of her life shape her approach to her role as a model for others? Do you have mentors in your life who have provided or now provide support in different ways?

**College Prep English I**

**Required Books:**

7 Habits for Highly Effective Teens – Steven Covey  
The Lightning Thief – Rick Riordan

**Required Assessment:**

Create a “One-Pager”: This is a graphic representation of your response to one scene in The Lightning Thief. Read the book, and then decide what incident from the book sparked a reaction from you. On the “One-Pager” you create to illustrate this scene and your reaction, you must include the following: title of the book; a drawing or picture of what is happening in the scene; two quotes from this scene; and your reaction to what is happening in the scene. You should write two paragraphs about: the decision Percy makes in this chapter, and whether you agree or disagree with it; or any similarity you discovered between yourself and Percy; or what the scene told you about the world you live in.

Your “One-Pager” MUST:

- Be on an 8.5” by 11” sheet of unlined, white paper (Divide the paper by drawing a line across the paper one inch from the top, and drawing another line across the paper three inches from the bottom. A vertical line can be placed in the middle of the page to divide it into two sections. You should now have four sections total, one each for the title, quotes, graphics and personal response.)

- Be typed, not handwritten (you may type the words on another sheet of paper and then cut and paste it on).

- Include the title of the book and the chapter the scene is taken from.

- Include two quotes from one chapter in the book.

- Contain a graphic representation of one scene, such as your drawing, a photograph taken by you, an image downloaded from the computer or a magazine/newspaper picture.

*(See sample on Last Page)*
In the episode of Scylla and Charybdis Odysseus must make a choice, does he face Scylla and loose 6 men, or steer toward Charybdis and lose everyone.

One quote that goes with my first picture is "...Scylla to port and on our starboard beam Charybdis, dire gorge of the salt sea tide." (861). This represents my first picture because in the picture it shows Scylla to the Right and Charybdis to the left. It shows how unforgiving they both were.

My next picture may not exactly be in the same part of most of the episode, but nonetheless is linked to the episode of Scylla and Charybdis. A quote that is connected to the second picture is "...far above my head the branches and their leaves, massed, overshadowing Charybdis pool." (869). This quote depicts Odysseus clinging to a branch over Charybdis. It shows how hard it must have been to hang on to the branch and live.

"...far above my head the branches and their leaves, massed, overshadowing Charybdis pool." (869)