

Olathe Schools Honors English I Summer Assignment

Olathe North	Olathe South	Olathe East	Olathe Northwest	Olathe West
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2025-2026

Hello, and welcome to high school. The writer and illustrator Roald Dahl once said, “If you are going to get anywhere in life you have to read a lot of books.” You may be asking why you’re being tasked with completing a summer assignment. According to research, the volume of daily reading has a direct correlation to success both in and outside of school.

Why Read for 20 Minutes a Day?

Student A	Student B	Student C
20 minutes per day	5 minutes per day	1 minute per day
1,800,000 words per year	282, 000 words per year	8,000 words per year
Scores in the 90 th percentile on standardized tests	Scores in the 50 th percentile on standardized tests	Scores in the 10 th percentile on standardized tests

Below, you will find the instructions for the Honors English I summer assignment. Please read all instructions carefully and complete the assignment to the best of your abilities.

Please follow the instructions below to complete the Honors English I summer assignment:

Step 1. Select a novel from the list provided below. To challenge yourself and to give your teacher an accurate picture of where you are as a student, please select a book that you have not previously read.

Book List

1. *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd
2. *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
3. *Concrete Rose* by Angie Thomas
4. *Patron Saints of Nothing* by Randy Ribay
5. *Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo

Step 2. While reading, take notes on significant moments from the book, and pay special attention to the growth of characters who are central to the text.

- a. Annotations and notes should be detailed and include page numbers and citations from the text.
- b. If you are borrowing the book from your high school or public library, **do not** write in it. If you need to annotate in a borrowed book, write on a post-it note or other piece of paper and place it on the appropriate page.

Reading the novel, creating effective annotations, and taking notes will prepare you for a timed writing, which will occur at the beginning of the semester.

Helpful Hints

- Complete reading your novel by the first full day of school.
- Annotate carefully and thoroughly the growth of the characters throughout the novel.

Your Honors 9 Teachers:

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Great places to find books: Axis360 (public library app), thriftbooks.com, Half Price Books, Barnes & Noble, Amazon, or any other book seller!

Note: If you need to borrow a book, please contact a teacher from your building. They will provide you direction.