

Freshman Summer Reading List

Torrance High School

2019

<p>Requirements for English 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose one book from the list below. • Read the book over the summer. • Complete the synopsis for grade 9. • Bring the completed synopsis to your English teacher ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. <p><small>* Please do <u>not</u> choose a book from the supplemental reading list.</small></p>	<p>Requirements for English 1 Honors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read both required novels (see page 2). • Read one book of your choice from the list below. • Complete the grade 9 synopsis for each of the three books. • Bring the three completed synopses to your English teacher ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. <p><small>* Please do <u>not</u> choose a book from the supplemental reading list.</small></p>
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Students who are lifelong readers are more successful in their academic classes as well as in their careers after graduation. People who read well also write better, have larger vocabularies, score higher on tests, and communicate more effectively.

The English Department has included a variety of authors to appeal to a broad spectrum of student interests. Some titles are recommended by the California Department of Education (CDE), American Library Association (ALA), and College Board (CB). In addition to the synopsis (synopses) that must be submitted **ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**, during the second week of school, **students will write an essay based on their selection(s).**

Disclaimer: The English teachers suggest parents help their child thoughtfully and carefully select a book from the list that appeals to their family’s values and beliefs.

The Alchemist: A Fable About Following Your Dreams – Paulo Coelho: Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy, leaves Spain to follow his dreams. Along the way, Santiago meets many spiritual messengers who embolden him to stay true to his dreams.

Autobiography of My Dead Brother – Walter Dean Myers: In this novel, Myers, the author of *Monster*, tackles the subject of drive-by shootings and their aftermath. The story begins with the funeral of a Harlem boy, whose best friend copes with his grief by drawing in his sketchbook and creating cartoon strips. An unusual plus for this book is the dramatic illustrations by the author’s son, Christopher Myers.

The Forest of Hands and Teeth – Carrie Ryan: The Unconsecrated (that’s zombies to you and me) live in the “forest of hands and teeth,” from which the teenage protagonist is trying to escape.

Life as We Knew It – Susan Beth Pfeffer: The narrator, a teenage girl, tells what happens to the earth after an asteroid hits the moon, knocking the moon off its orbit.

Stargirl – Jerry Spinelli: A new 10th grade student becomes incredibly popular. Will her status last as the year continues?

Unbroken (The Young Adult Adaptation): An Olympian’s Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive – Laura Hillenbrand: tells the story of a former Olympian’s courage, cunning, and fortitude following his plane crash in enemy territory. Louis Zamperini persists and perseveres when all odds are against him.

Required Reading for English I Honors ONLY

Students who are taking a *regular* 9th grade English class must choose a book from the list on the front page.

***Fahrenheit 451* - Ray Bradbury:** In a future world where firefighters start fires and destroy books, the protagonist begins to question his values and seek new meaning for his life.

***Great Expectations* - Charles Dickens:** This nineteenth century classic tells the story of Pip, an orphan who receives an unexpected fortune and struggles to become a gentleman.

9th Grade Summer Reading Synopsis
Focus on a Character's Decision

Directions: Respond in complete sentences. Bring this to your English class on **THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**.

Book Title: _____ Author: _____

What is the **setting** (time and place) of the book? _____

State **THREE main characters** and provide a thoughtful description of each:

List **six key** events in chronological order. (two from the beginning, two from the middle, two from the end):

What is the **main conflict** in the story *and* how it is resolved? _____
