

Honors English 9 Summer Reading

Honors English 9 Team

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Is there required summer reading?

We strongly encourage independent reading, not only during the summer, but throughout the entire year. Independent reading is essential to honors, Advanced Placement, and college readiness. However, we are not assigning a specific novel or novels to be read over the summer.

Why isn't summer reading mandatory?

If a student is truly serious about performing well in the Honors and Advanced Placement English program at Franklin High School, he or she should be willing to read a minimum of two novels and/or non-fiction books during the ten-week break. Students who want to be successful in Honors English 9 should want to read, whether such reading is mandatory or not.

What will happen if a student doesn't read over the summer?

When students don't read challenging books on a regular basis, their academic abilities often start to "level out" and they no longer see progress. In our experience teaching both Honors and Advanced Placement, we have found that students who read many books – and who read because they *want* to – can think more deeply and express themselves more maturely through writing. If you would like to learn more about the impact of reading on intellectual development, please read the interesting article at the following address:

https://www.csun.edu/~krowlands/Content/Academic_Resources/Reading/Useful%20Articles/Cuningham-What%20Reading%20Does%20for%20the%20Mind.pdf

What type of books should 9th grade honors students read?

Only books written at or above a student's reading level will truly develop a student's academic or intellectual capacity. Challenging books feature elevated vocabulary, sophisticated sentence structure, and complex ideas. Of course, this doesn't mean that you should never read easier books just for fun; we do that all the time. However, reading a combination of "easy" books and more challenging books is the best way to sustain your interest and improve your abilities. To decide whether or not your book choices are at or above your grade level, please see the examples in the chart below.

Not Very Challenging Books	Somewhat Challenging Books	Most Challenging Books
<i>The Twilight Series</i>	<i>The Lord of the Rings</i> trilogy	Shakespeare's plays
<i>The Harry Potter Series</i>	<i>The Color Purple</i>	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>
<i>The Notebook</i>	<i>The Good Earth</i>	<i>Gulliver's Travels</i>
<i>The Chronicles of Narnia</i>	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i>	<i>Jane Eyre</i>

Where can students find challenging books?

This list of books was compiled by the College Board for college bound students.

http://www.uhlibrary.net/pdf/college_board_recommended_books.pdf

Do you have questions about the Honors English 9 program?

If you need any additional information, please contact the Honors 9 team leader Caitlin Knapp at cknapp@egusd.net. We are looking forward to a challenging and rewarding year, and we'll see you in August!