

Freshman Summer Reading List

Torrance High School

2017

Requirements for English 1:	Requirements for English 1 Honors:
<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 style="font-size: small; margin-top: 10px;">* Please do <u>not</u> choose a book from the supplemental reading list.</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 style="font-size: small; margin-top: 10px;">* Please do <u>not</u> choose a book from the supplemental reading list.</p>

Students who are life-long 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**, students will demonstrate that they did indeed read by taking a multiple choice quiz for each assigned novel. The English teachers suggest parents help their child thoughtfully and carefully select a book from the list.

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. (176 pages)

Autobiography of My Dead Brother – Walter Dean Myers: It's hard to go wrong with a book by Walter Dean Myers, who wrote *Monster* and other popular young adult fiction. In this outing, Myers tackles the subject of drive-by shootings and their aftermath. The novel starts 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. (224 pages)

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime – Mark Haddon: A murder mystery of sorts told by an autistic, mathematically-gifted, and socially-hopeless 15-year-old boy. (252 pages)

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. (ALA: 336 pages)

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. (ALA: 347 pages)

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.