

## PRE-AP SOPHOMORE ENGLISH SUMMER READING INFORMATION

**TEACHERS:** Mrs. Bryant

As a pre-AP student, you will be required to read two books for summer reading, one that is required and one that you choose. Read the information below very carefully. Be sure to read to the end because you have some work to do before you get to school the first day. I hope that you might find time to read even more books on your own!

### REQUIRED:

#### ***A Separate Peace* by John Knowles.**

- Gene, introverted and intellectual, and Phineas, adventurous and spontaneous, somehow form a friendship at the boarding school they both attend. However, this friendship is not without conflict. This book explores what happens when jealousy and guilt become the driving forces in a relationship.

### THE SECOND BOOK:

For the second book, **you will be choosing**. I have listed guidelines below, but you are not limited by a list. Please read the list of **books that you are not allowed to choose** because they will be covered in later classes. Please choose a book **that you have not already read**.

### How to choose:

For this assignment, I would like for you to choose a fiction book (a novel) that is at least 150 pages long. You should choose a book that interests you and that challenges you. Please choose a book that is of an appropriate level of challenge for a student entering a pre-AP sophomore class. Also choose a book whose author was intentional about writing a meaningful story with strong use of language. The book you choose should allow for discussion and thought and deeper meaning. It can be a classic or something new. It is really up to you. Find something you will like reading that is still going to make you think. Remember that many books, though they might be enjoyable to read, were written mainly as entertainment, a few hours of escape, and are not intended to challenge thought and contemplation. For this assignment, you need something deeper than that.

### Some suggestions for choosing:

Below are several ways that you might try to locate a book you would enjoy. It is not a checklist, just several suggestions. Be sure you look at the list of BOOKS NOT TO READ (below the chart). These will be on lists for our class time or for other classes that you might take later.

Suggestions	Explanation
Look at lists...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Summer reading lists for other schools, online lists of great books, prize-winning books (Be sure to think about the nature of the prize. "Best Beach Read" is not necessarily a good recommendation. Pulitzer Prize is.), etc.</li></ul>
Look at "lexile" range or ATOS ranking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The lexile range of a book is a computer-generated number that indicates a general range of difficulty of vocabulary and sentence structure. Generally, sophomore level books are around 900 and up, but I have seen some really good books that I would recommend to you in the lower 700s. Anything below 700 might be too low-level.</li><li>• ATOS is a similar type of analysis of books. You can look this up for some novels.</li></ul>
Look up reading level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For some books, you can search the internet for reading level. Some sources give you a grade range and others an age range.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sometimes books labeled YA (young adult) are really just middle school books, but some of them are really wonderful and at an appropriate level for this assignment. Be careful if you choose from this category.</li> </ul>
Read reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Often you can find reliable reviews of books online. See what they have to say. Remember that "best seller" does not necessarily translate to high quality writing.</li> </ul>
Go to Barnes and Noble	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every year, Barnes and Noble displays books that schools have put on their summer reading lists. They also have tables of other reading suggestions. Thumb through a few and see what you think.</li> </ul>
Read a few pages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Go to the library and open the book and just read a few pages. (You can also often find the first few pages of a book on Amazon and other sites.) See how you like it. Does that language feel like it is going to be a strong read, or does it feel too easy?</li> </ul>
Talk to others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your friends, family, teachers, or others might have really good suggestions if you let them know what you are looking for.</li> </ul>
Same author	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look at the "Books Not To Read" list and consider reading something by the same author.</li> </ul>
Some authors and types of authors that are not really what you are looking for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Green</li> <li>• Nicholas Sparks</li> <li>• Romance writers</li> <li>• Mystery writers</li> <li>• Action adventure writers</li> </ul>

I want this book to be something of value, but I also want it to be something you enjoy. Don't choose something you will hate reading because you think it is what I would make you read. Feel free to email me ([sbryant@fwc.org](mailto:sbryant@fwc.org)) about your choices.

**Please DO NOT choose the following books:**

- *1984* by George Orwell
- *All the Pretty Horses* by Cormac McCarthy
- *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin
- *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley
- *Catch-22* by Joseph Heller
- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
- *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad
- *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë
- *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding
- *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
- *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens
- *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver
- *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
- *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy
- *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- *Silas Marner* by George Eliot
- *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens
- *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR READING AND ANNOTATING:**

Read carefully for **detail and meaning**. Read with a pen or pencil in your hand and make notes in your book as you read. You can mark anything that you think is important and that will help you remember what you have read. You might even write question marks in the margins by things you want to be sure to ask me about later. Do not just highlight; your annotations should include words and perhaps symbols that you develop and that have meaning to you. The following **required annotating** will be checked for a grade the first week of school.

## **REQUIRED ANNOTATING FOR BOTH BOOKS:**

1. Write in the margin about important things that help you know more about the main characters. For example, in the first section, you might write, "Gene goes back to see a tree."
2. Write in the margin when you come across an event that you think significantly changes things in the story.
3. Mark an important quotation from each chapter.
4. At the end of each chapter, write a brief, bullet-point list of the important events of that chapter.

## **YOUR ASSIGNMENTS:**

Complete the charts at the end of this document and have them ready to turn in on the first day of school.

## **FIRST DAYS OF SCHOOL:**

We will begin on the **first day of school**. It will not be a wasted day, so be ready.

- Bring your book to school with you.
- Expect a quiz and other activities related to the book.

## **SUPPLIES:**

- Please bring **either** a box of tissues, a package of highlighters, or a ream of copy paper.
- Every day you should have the book we are studying, your computer charged and ready, pens and pencils, and an attitude ready to learn.

I can't wait to get to know you and talk about what you have read! Enjoy your summer.

Mrs. Bryant

**PRE-AP ENGLISH II SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT - A SEPARATE PEACE BY JOHN KNOWLES**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

Setting (where and when)	
Write a brief description of Gene, using complete sentences (3-6). Be sure that you are thinking not about physical appearance, but about what he is like as a person.	
Choose a quotation that you believe captures something important about Gene. Explain why you chose this quotation. Be sure to include a parenthetical citation.	
Write a brief description of Phineas (Finny) following the same instructions above.	
Choose a quotation that you believe captures something important about Finny. Explain why you chose this quotation. Be sure to include a parenthetical citation.	
Write a sentence or two that explains the main conflict of the book.	
What is the point of view of the book (who tells the story?) and how does this affect the reader's understanding of the events?	
Write a sentence that states a theme of the book. Remember that theme is a universal observation about life; it is not about the characters.	

**PRE-AP ENGLISH II SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT - FREE CHOICE BOOK**

**YOUR NAME:**

**TITLE AND AUTHOR OF THE BOOK YOU CHOSE:**

Write a brief (no more than 6 sentences) summary of the plot of your book. Please use your own words and ideas.	
Explain the criteria that you used to decide that this would be an appropriately challenging and literary choice. (No more than 3 sentences.)	
Evaluate the book. After you read it, do you still believe that it was a good choice? Explain. Also include whether you enjoyed the book and why. (5-8 sentences)	
Briefly describe the/a main character. (3-6 sentences) Be sure to explain what this character is like as a person, not their physical appearance.	
Briefly explain in one or more complete sentence the theme (universal observation about humanity/life) of the book.	
Write one quotation that you believe captures something important about the book. Explain why you chose it. (Be sure to document with a parenthetical citation.)	