



## The School District of Newberry County

### Honors Summer Reading

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Honors and college English classes are rigorous and demanding, even in the summer! Studies show that the more students read, the more successful they are in school. Therefore, we want to encourage students to read all year long and for the rest of their lives, introduce them to curriculum topics, enhance specific skills, and prepare them for more meaningful study. As such, there are required summer assignments specifically for honors and college English students.

#### **Purposes:**

- Honors English students are expected to read widely and deeply as well as to communicate effectively in writing. Summer reading allows for the opportunity to read more literature in preparation for the next grade level.
- Writing and/or projects assigned based on summer reading requirements align to curricular objectives to which students have already been introduced. This provides the teacher with a formative assessment tool for identifying present levels for reading and writing, strengths, and areas for potential growth.
- Summer reading requirements are designed to introduce students to the task of handling independent work which requires students to be motivated and to develop the time management skills necessary to handle extended academic deadlines.

#### **Requirements:**

We have chosen a variety of literature selections for you to read this summer in preparation for our class. All are fairly representative of the types of literature we will be experiencing in class.

1. Honors students will read one book from their grade level, and be prepared to complete a written task when returning to school.

#### **Honors English 2:**

*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou  
*A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines

*A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry  
*A Separate Peace* by Knowles

#### **Honors English 3**

*The Color Purple* by Alice Walker  
*Cold Sassy Tree* by Olive Burns

*The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien  
*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain

#### **Honors English 4**

*Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw  
*Jane Eyre* by Bronte

*The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara King Solver  
*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

In addition, when students return to school next year, they will be responsible for responding to one of the books they read by completing one of the activities listed on the back of this letter. Our hope is that discussion of pleasurable reads and related articles will continue to promote lifelong reading habits and allow students to learn from one another.