

PILLOW ACADEMY 2019 SUMMER READING

2019 Pillow Academy Summer Reading 9th Grade Honors (English I)



Rising 9th grade Honors students will read three books this summer: Two books are required, and the other selection is a book of choice. A test will be given on one of the required books (*Of Mice and Men*) on the first full day of school in August, and an assignment to be completed over the summer for the other required book (which will be chosen from the list below) will also be due on the first full day of school in August. An assignment (to be completed over the summer) for the book of choice will be due on the first half day of school.

Required books:

***Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck**

While the powerlessness of the laboring class is a recurring theme in Steinbeck's work of the late 1930s, he narrowed his focus when composing "Of Mice and Men" (1937), creating an intimate portrait of two men facing a world marked by petty tyranny, misunderstanding, jealousy, and callousness. But though the scope is narrow, the theme is universal; a friendship and a shared dream that makes an individual's existence meaningful.

- Read *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck carefully.
- A test on the book will be given on the first full day of school in August.

For the second required book, choose ONE work from the following list:

***Night* by Elie Wiesel**

Night is a candid, horrific, and deeply poignant autobiographical account of Wiesel's survival as a teenager in the Nazi death camps. This new translation by Marion Wiesel, Elie's wife and frequent translator, presents this seminal memoir in the language and spirit truest to the author's original intent. And in a substantive new preface, Elie reflects on the enduring importance of *Night* and his lifelong, passionate dedication to ensuring that the world never forgets man's capacity for inhumanity to man.

***Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe**

Told through the fictional experiences of Okonkwo, a wealthy and fearless Igbo warrior of Umuofia in the late 1800s, *Things Fall Apart* explores one man's futile resistance to the devaluing of his Igbo traditions by British political and religious forces and his despair as his community capitulates to the powerful new order.

***A Study in Scarlet* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**

Written in 1886, the story marks the first appearance of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, who would become among the most famous characters in literature. The book's title derives from a speech given by Holmes, an amateur detective, to his friend and chronicler Watson on the nature of his work, in which he describes the story's murder investigation as

PILLOW ACADEMY 2019 SUMMER READING

his "study in scarlet": "There's the scarlet thread of murder running through the colourless skein of life, and our duty is to unravel it, and isolate it, and expose every inch of it."

***Life of Pi* Yann Martel**

After the sinking of a cargo ship, a solitary lifeboat remains bobbing on the wild blue Pacific. The only survivors from the wreck are a sixteen-year-old boy named Pi, a hyena, a wounded zebra, an orangutan—and a 450-pound royal bengal tiger. The scene is set for one of the most extraordinary and beloved works of fiction in recent years.

- Select and read your second required book from the list above.
- Students will complete the [Summer Reading Major Work Data Sheet](#) as their assignment for this novel. Download the form and follow the directions to type your answers to the questions.
- This assignment on the second required book will be turned in through Turn It In on the first full day of school.

9th grade Honors options for book of choice:

Choose one book from the [2019-2020 Pillow Academy Summer Reading Book of Choice List for Grades 10-12](#). See Mrs. Pillow for her approval of your choice. You will receive your assignment for your book of choice from Mrs. Pillow at that time. Selections are due by Friday, May 17.

- Completed book of choice assignments are due on the first half day of school.
- [Assignments for book of choice](#)

PILLOW ACADEMY 2019 SUMMER READING

** Please Note: Summer reading selections are chosen based on literary merit and with high academic standards in mind. The books assigned by the English department at Pillow Academy represent a mix of classic and contemporary literature. Many books address complex situations and may contain adult themes and language. The attempt to expose students to challenging topics and issues is intended to serve as opportunities for students to think, theorize, question, and explore.*