



**Required Summer Reading for High School
Northland Christian School**

Summer 2026

As an English Department, we believe that reading is such an important activity to engage in during the summer months for enrichment and educational purposes. Please look at the page for the grade you will be in for next year to see your summer reading selection and follow the instructions listed. **For all classes, we require students to annotate their novel using the annotation instructions. The annotations will help students gather information for a project which will be assigned when we return to school in the fall.**

For students who will be taking 11th AP Language or 12th AP Literature, you will have an assignment to complete this summer. Instructions are listed below.

Annotation Instructions

Annotating while reading promotes active reading which in turn increases focus, comprehension, retention, and making connections. You are required to annotate your novel during summer reading. Although you may underline, box, and highlight as you read, required annotations need to be in the form of handwritten words & short phrases. You must include **THREE annotations per chapter**. Annotations are due on the first day of school. Below is a list of common elements to annotate while reading in a novel.

1. Characters

- As characters are introduced, write the character's name in the margin with a brief, but specific description- Kris- Hale's 14-year-old troubled daughter

2. Settings

- As settings are introduced, write the setting (place, time, season...) in the margin with a brief,

but specific description- Two years have passed since Ron's death, and it's now December 2001, Davenport, Iowa.

3. Conflicts

- Label and briefly describe the conflict. Man vs society, Kari vs. society's limited views on women's rights

4. Shifts

- Changes are important- annotate important shifts/changes in mood, tone, setting, or syntax with brief, but specific words- Sudden tone shift from admiring to condemning. Abrupt tone= syntax shift to short, curt dialogue.

5. Irony

- What kind of irony? Situational irony- Bill started the fire?!?!

6. Predictions

- Keep it simple but specific- Nila will accept Tor's challenge to enter the triathlon. 7.

Questions

- Keep it simple but specific- Why include this scene? How do they know each other? 8.

Foreshadowing

- Active reading helps readers pick up on subtle hints about plot development. Tom will meet Kira later in the story.

9. Themes

- Use single thematic words in the margin. Track underlying messages/big ideas through the chapters. Courage, Friendship, Challenges...

10. Motifs

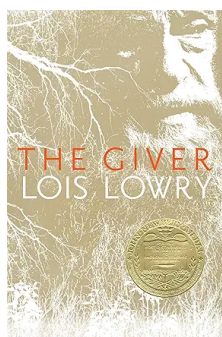
- a recurrent image, idea, or symbol that develops or explains a theme. Time, Dreams, Flowers...

11. Summary sentence at the end of each chapter- this can be a question or a thought.

High School Reading List:

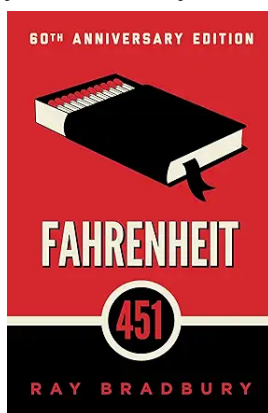
Freshman English

For students entering **9th grade** and taking **academic level** English, please read the following book. Then, follow the directions given for annotating your book as you read.



The Giver by Lois Lowry

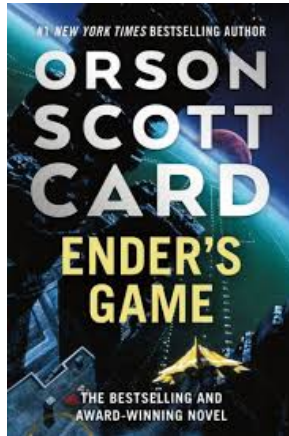
For students entering **9th grade** and taking **Honors** English, please read the following book. Then, follow the directions given for annotating your book as you read.



Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

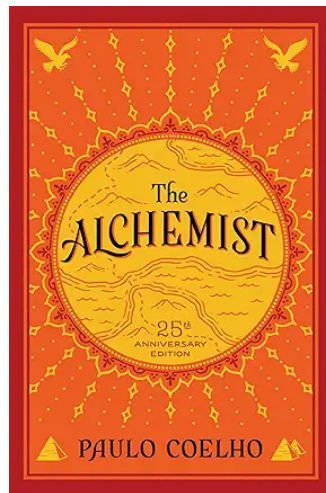
Sophomore English

For students entering **10th grade** and taking **on-level** English, please read the following book.
Then, follow the directions given for annotating your book as you read.



Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

For students entering **10th grade** and taking **Honors** English, please read the following book.
Then, follow the directions given for annotating your book as you read.

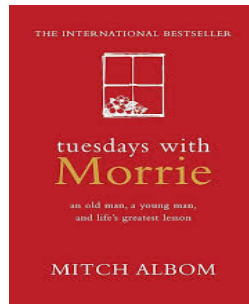


The Alchemist
by Paulo Coelho

Junior English

On-level:

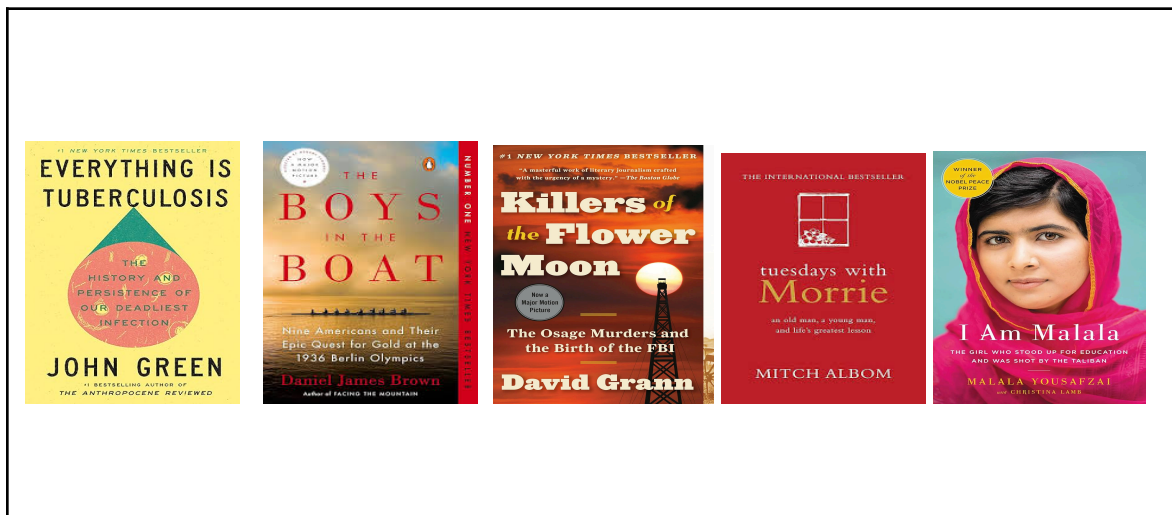
If you are taking on-level English, you will read and annotate your book and will get your assignment when you return in August. You must have one annotation/post-it per chapter.



Tuesdays with Morrie
By Mitch Albom

AP Language and Composition:

If you are taking AP Language and Composition, you will read one of the following books and then [click here](#) for your assignment which must be completed prior to the first week of school.



Senior English

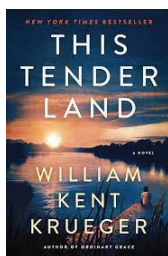
All students entering 12th grade must choose **one** of the following books to read over the summer.

On-level:

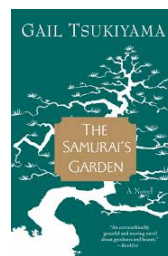
If you are taking on-level English, you will read and annotate your book and will get your assignment when you return in August. You must have one annotation/post-it per chapter.

12th-AP English Literature

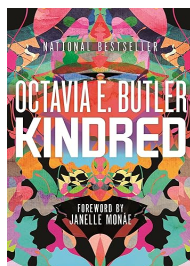
Please choose one book to read and **complete this assignment** before you return to school in August. If you need help choosing a book, please contact Mrs. McCathran. You are encouraged to read the synopsis of the books on Amazon and/or Goodreads to see what is interesting to you.



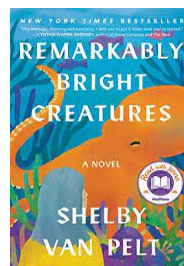
This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger



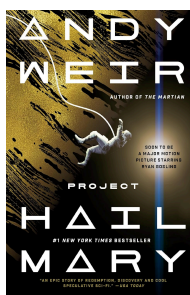
The Samurai's Garden by Gail Tsukiyama



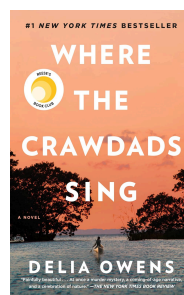
Kindred by Octavia E. Butler



Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt



Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir



Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

