

**Paulsboro High School**  
**Honors and Advanced Placement English**  
**Acknowledgement of**  
**Summer Reading Requirements**

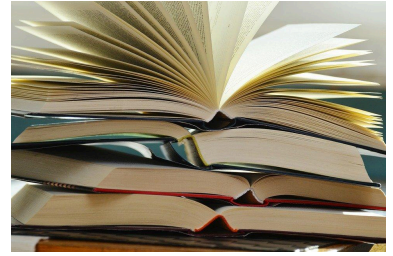
I have received a copy of the Honors/AP English Summer Reading Requirements. I fully understand that **the** summer reading work is due **the first week of school**. I also fully understand that if the work is not submitted I will receive a grade of "zero" and will not be given the opportunity to make this work up, thus significantly impacting my first marking period grade. I agree to these terms and accept admission into this class.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Honors English Student:



Welcome to the Honors English II class at Paulsboro High School. This is an excellent opportunity to challenge yourself intellectually. This class will require more reading, writing, and critical thinking than the traditional or college prep English class. Therefore, it is vital that you keep track of your assignments and organize your time wisely throughout the school year. Your success in this class will better prepare you for the rigors of college and for the demands of the workplace.

Contained herein you will find your summer reading requirements. The summer reading program is an important feature of the honors class, and your commitment to this reading will largely set the tone for the year. ***All work is due the first week of school!***

Again, congratulations on your academic accomplishments. We hope you have a challenging and successful freshman year at Paulsboro High School.

~ The Paulsboro High School English Department

## **Honors English II Ms.Toole**

### **HONORS EXPECTATIONS:**

Honors level courses are more rigorous than regular courses, classes may require additional reading, research, essays, and projects. The curriculum will be covered at a faster pace and in greater depth while incorporating more complex analysis and additional sources.

Students in Honors courses are expected to have the following characteristics:

- High academic achievement and intellectual ability. Self-motivation and self-discipline.
- Good organizational skills.
- Excellent written and spoken expressions.
- An avid interest in reading different types of text. An ability to work independently and collaboratively.
- Remain on task in class with little to no disruption. Good attendance.

### **HONORS COURSES EXPECTATIONS**

- Maintain A/B grades.
  - Remain in the course for the duration of the year. Maintain high standards of academic integrity.
  - Be in class every day.
  - The student commits to completing summer work.
1. As an honors student, you should commit to working hard all year. Any violation regarding plagiarism, cheating, submitting work he or she did not complete, etc. may result in a zero or being dropped from the honors course without honors credit.
  2. Student success is the ultimate goal, but students not succeeding in an honors class will be handled on an individual basis. Students who finish the first marking period with a grade lower than a C will be reviewed on a case-to-case basis and could potentially be unenrolled in the course and placed in a college prep level class.
  3. Students who receive a C may not be invited to join the next honors course at the teacher's discretion.
  4. Students who have excessive tardies, absences, or discipline may result in being dropped from the honors course and placed in the college prep level of the course.



Paulsboro High School  
English Department  
Summer Reading 2025  
Assignment Grade 10  
(Honors level)

## Beautiful Words Summer Reading Assignment

*Adapted from pennykittle.net*

### Overview of Assignment:

As you read your chosen summer reading book(s), first and foremost, enjoy this time to read for pleasure, relaxation, and opportunity. While you are only asked to select one book from each category, you are encouraged to read more!

During your reading, gather a collection of sentences, lines, and/or short excerpts that show the power of beautiful writing. Beautiful doesn't necessarily mean positive (as many of you are thinking).

***Beautiful is anything meaningful or powerful. Anything that resonates with you. Phrases that make you think deeply or reveal hidden layers of the conflict or characters.***

You are not looking for the typical definition of "beauty" or "beautiful."

You are collecting beautiful, powerful, **meaningful writing**...line by line.

**For Example:** The character in your book could be struggling with a conflict that is internal, external, or both. Throughout the book, look for how the author is describing thoughts, images, reactions, etc. that make you take pause and think deeply. These are words that resonate and create **BEAUTY**.

***This is the power of beautiful writing.***

**Additional Examples:** if your book is about a school shooting, you can find the power in those lines...describing the fear; if your book is about war, you can find the power in those lines...describing the intensity of the situation.

The point is...author's weave words that create beauty, no matter what they are writing about. Once you have collected beautiful words, phrases, and excerpts, you are ready to complete the activity.

**The assignment will be due the first week of school. It will count as an Assessment grade. You will have the opportunity to conference with your English teacher prior to turning in your work.**

**Summer Reading Assignment Directions:**

1. Read and collect a minimum of 10 lines that represent ***beautiful words***. As a suggestion, start your collection from the very moment you begin the book. Keep a journal or stack of post-it notes close by.
2. Create a one-page handwritten visual representation **OR** a PowerPoint slideshow.
3. Review the scoring criteria before turning in your assignment. Should you have questions, please confer with your English teacher during the first week of school prior to turning in your work.

**Option 1 – Handwritten Visual Representation Guidelines:**

- Title and author
- Quote 10 lines from your book that demonstrate beautiful writing.
- Briefly explain one central theme of the book
- Briefly reflect on how you feel about that theme.
- Include a hand drawn image or artistic design that represents some aspect of the book.
- Note: All parts MUST be HANDWRITTEN.

**Option 1 Scoring Criteria:**

Full Credit	Partial Credit	No Credit
Title and Author	Title and Author	Assignment was not turned in and/or completed.
10 lines of beautiful writing	<b><i>Less than</i></b> 10 lines of beautiful writing	
Brief explanation of one theme or central idea	Explanation of one theme or central idea <b><i>missing or incomplete</i></b>	
Brief reflection of personal thoughts and feelings regarding the theme	<b><i>Missing or incomplete</i></b> brief reflection of personal thoughts and feelings regarding the theme	
Hand-drawn image or graphic design that represents the book	Hand-drawn image/graphic design <b><i>missing</i></b>	
Few, if any, grammar or mechanics errors	<b><i>Several</i></b> grammar or mechanics errors	

*See sample student projects below.*

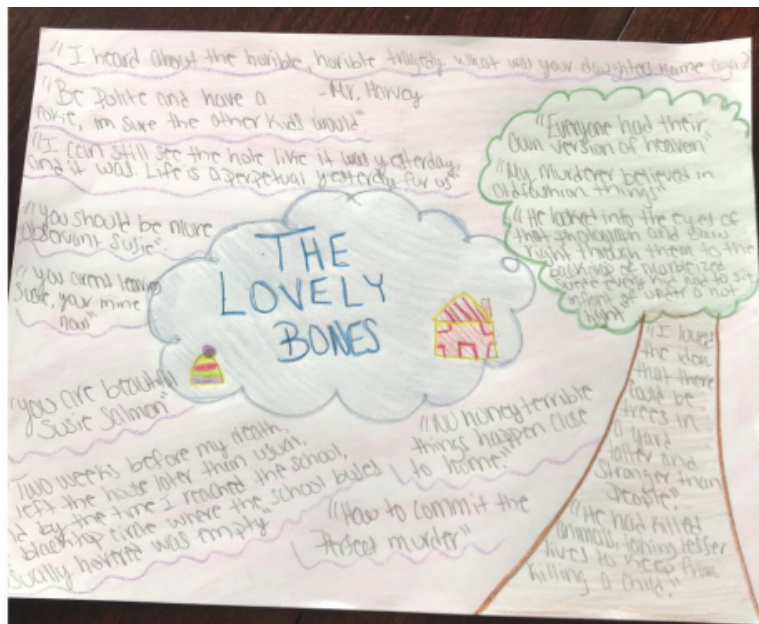
## **Option 2 – PowerPoint Slideshow Guidelines:**

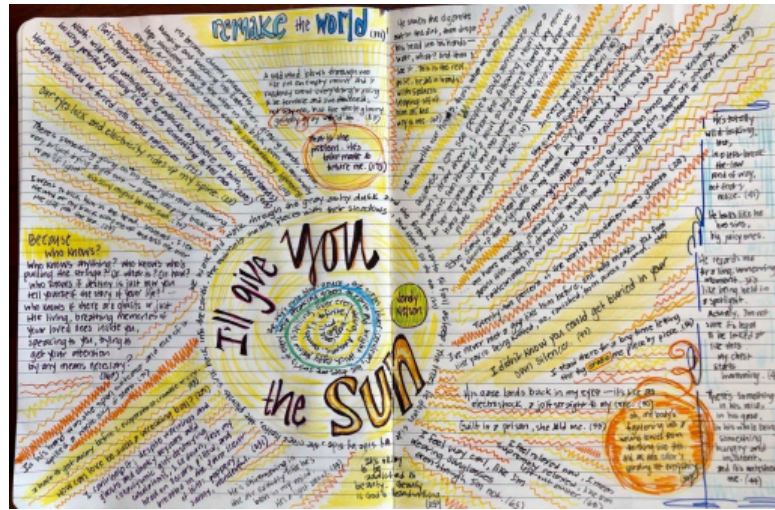
Slide #	What to Include on Each Slide
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book Title</li><li>• Author</li><li>• Your Name</li><li>• Your English Teacher's Name</li><li>• Your Grade Level</li></ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Write 2-3 sentences to explain one of the themes or central ideas found in your summer reading book. <i>(Remember, the theme is the overall message the author is trying to convey to the reader. It is a big picture takeaway about life and the world around you.)</i></li></ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Write 2-3 sentences to explain your personal thoughts and feelings about the theme or central idea.</li></ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Copy and paste 3-5 images that represents the theme you explained on Slide #2.</li></ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Write 2 of your quotes (beautiful words) on this slide. <i>(Don't forget to include quotation marks.)</i></li></ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Write 2 of your quotes (beautiful words) on this slide. <i>(Don't forget to include quotation marks.)</i></li></ul>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Write 2 of your quotes (beautiful words) on this slide. <i>(Don't forget to include quotation marks.)</i></li></ul>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Write 2 of your quotes (beautiful words) on this slide. <i>(Don't forget to include quotation marks.)</i></li></ul>
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Write 2 of your quotes (beautiful words) on this slide. <i>(Don't forget to include quotation marks.)</i></li></ul>
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Write 2-3 sentences to explain your thoughts about the book, if you would recommend it to a friend, and why.</li></ul>

## Option 2: PowerPoint Slideshow Scoring Criteria:

Full Credit	Partial Credit	No Credit
Title, Author, Your Name, Your Teacher's Name, Your Grade Level	Title, Author, Your Name, Your Grade Level	Assignment was not turned in and/or completed.
10 lines of beautiful writing	<b>Less than</b> 10 lines of beautiful writing	
Brief explanation of one theme or central idea	Explanation of one theme or central idea <b>missing or incomplete</b>	
Brief explanation of personal thoughts or feelings about the theme or central idea	<b>Incomplete or missing</b> brief explanation of personal thoughts or feelings about the theme or central idea	
3-5 images that represents the theme/central idea	<b>Less than</b> 3 images or images not included	
2-3 Sentences to explain your thoughts about the book and recommendation	<b>Incomplete or missing</b> explanation of thoughts and recommendation	
Few, if any, grammar or mechanics errors	<b>Several</b> grammar or mechanics errors	

## Option 1: Sample Student Projects





## Option 2: PowerPoint Slideshow Sample Template

Feel free to create your own slideshow template as you follow the assignment guidelines and scoring criteria.



**Tenth Grade Honors 2025 Summer Reading Choices**  
**You need to CHOOSE ONE Classic AND ONE Contemporary Novel to Read**

**Classics:**

**Ray Bradbury- *Fahrenheit 451***

*Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television "family." But when he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn't live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known.*

**Louisa May Alcott - *Little Women***

*Little Women is a novel by American author Louisa May Alcott (1832–1888), which was originally published in two volumes in 1868 and 1869. Alcott wrote the books rapidly over several months at the request of her publisher. The novel follows the lives of four sisters—Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy March—detailing their passage from childhood to womanhood, and is loosely based on the author and her three sisters. Little Women was an immediate commercial and critical success, and readers demanded to know more about the characters. Alcott quickly completed a second volume, entitled Good Wives. It was also successful. The two volumes were issued in 1880 in a single work entitled Little Women. Alcott also wrote two sequels to her popular work, both of which also featured the March sisters: Little Men (1871) and Jo's Boys (1886). Although Little Women was a novel for girls, it differed notably from the current writings for children, especially girls. The novel addressed three major themes: "domesticity, work, and true love, all of them interdependent and each necessary to the achievement of its heroine's individual identity." Little Women "has been read as a romance or as a quest, or both. It has been read as a family drama that validates virtue over wealth", but also "as a means of escaping that life by women who knew its gender constraints only too well".*

**Toni Morrison - *Beloved***

*Sethe, its protagonist, was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has too many memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. And Sethe's new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved. Filled with bitter poetry and suspense as taut as a rope, Beloved is a towering achievement.*

**George Orwell- *Animal Farm***

*"All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others."*

*A farm is taken over by its overworked, mistreated animals. With flaming idealism and stirring slogans, they set out to create a paradise of progress, justice, and equality. Thus the stage is set for one of the most telling satiric fables ever penned—a razor-edged fairy tale for grown-ups that records the evolution from revolution against tyranny to a totalitarianism just as terrible.*

*When Animal Farm was first published, Stalinist Russia was seen as its target. Today it is devastatingly clear that wherever and whenever freedom is attacked, under whatever banner, the cutting clarity and savage comedy of George Orwell's masterpiece have a meaning and message still ferociously fresh.*

## Contemporary:

### Laurie Halse Anderson - **Speak**

*Freshman year at Merryweather High is not going well for Melinda Sordino. She busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops, and now her friends—and even strangers—all hate her. So she stops trying, stops talking. She retreats into her head, and all the lies and hypocrisies of high school become magnified, leaving her with no desire to talk to anyone anyway. But it's not so comfortable in her head, either—there's something banging around in there that she doesn't want to think about. She can't just go on like this forever. Eventually, she's going to have to confront the thing she's avoiding, the thing that happened at the party, the thing that nobody but her knows. She's going to have to speak the truth.*

### Amy Tan- **The Joy Luck Club**

*Four mothers, four daughters, four families whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who's "saying" the stories. In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. United in shared unspeakable loss and hope, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Rather than sink into tragedy, they choose to gather to raise their spirits and money. "To despair was to wish back for something already lost. Or to prolong what was already unbearable." Forty years later the stories and history continue.*

*With wit and sensitivity, Amy Tan examines the sometimes painful, often tender, and always deep connection between mothers and daughters. As each woman reveals her secrets, trying to unravel the truth about her life, the strings become more tangled, more entwined. Mothers boast or despair over daughters, and daughters roll their eyes even as they feel the inextricable tightening of their matriarchal ties. Tan is an astute storyteller, enticing readers to immerse themselves into these lives of complexity and mystery.*

### Alice Walker - **The Color Purple**

*Celie is a poor black woman whose letters tell the story of 20 years of her life, beginning at age 14 when she is being abused and raped by her father and attempting to protect her sister from the same fate, and continuing over the course of her marriage to "Mister," a brutal man who terrorizes her. Celie eventually learns that her abusive husband has been keeping her sister's letters from her and the rage she feels, combined with an example of love and independence provided by her close friend Shug, pushes her finally toward an awakening of her creative and loving self. The novel has been the frequent target of censors and appears on the American Library Association list of the 100 Most Frequently Challenged Books of 2000–2009 at number seventeen because of the sometimes explicit content, particularly in terms of violence. In 2003, the book was listed on the BBC's The Big Read poll of the UK's "best-loved novels."*

### Herman Hesse – **Siddhartha**

*It is the story of the quest of Siddhartha, a wealthy Indian Brahmin who casts off a life of privilege and comfort to seek spiritual fulfillment and wisdom. On his journey, Siddhartha encounters wandering ascetics, Buddhist monks, and successful merchants, as well as a courtesan named Kamala and a simple ferryman who has attained enlightenment. Traveling among these people and experiencing life's vital passages—love, work, friendship, and fatherhood—Siddhartha discovers that true knowledge is guided from within.*