

Paulsboro Junior High School Academic English Courses Acknowledgement of Summer Reading Requirements

I have received a copy of the Academic 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.

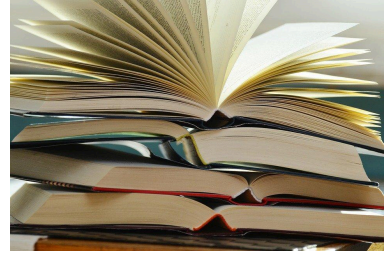
Student Signature: _____

Student Name (please print): _____

Parent Signature: _____

Dear Academic English Student:

Welcome to the Honors English classes at Paulsboro Junior 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 year at Paulsboro Junior High School.

~ The Paulsboro Junior/ Senior High School English Department

Honors 7th Grade Language Arts Literacy
2025 Summer Reading List

Everyone must read...

1. *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie

Character Diary Entry assignment

Choose one character from *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie. Write three diary entries from the character's point of view. Your entries should reflect key moments in the story and show the character's evolving thoughts, fears, motivations, or guilt. These entries should be creative, but also supported by the events and tone of the novel.

Guidelines for Diary Entries

1. Write 3 diary entries (one paragraph minimum each, 6-8 sentences)
2. Each entry should focus on a specific point in the story
 - a. Arrival at the island
 - b. After a major event (e.g. a death or reveal)
 - c. Near the end or after a turning point.
3. Use first-person voice (e.g. "I can't believe what I just saw...")
4. Include specific references to events in the book.
5. Demonstrate the character's thoughts, feelings, fears, or suspicions.
6. Be creative, but stay true to the character and the story.

Choice between two novels

1. *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho
2. *Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes

Character Growth Timeline assignment

In both novels, the main character goes on a powerful journey- either physical, emotional, or intellectual. For this assignment, you will create a character growth timeline that shows how the main character changes over the course of the story.

You will choose **five** key moments in the novel and explain how each one helps shape the character's development.

Project Requirements

1. Choose the main character of your selected novel (Santiago or Charlie).
2. Create a visual timeline with at least 5 important events from the novel that helped the character grow or change.
3. Each event on the timeline must include:
 - a. A brief description of the event (1-2 sentences)
 - b. A written explanation (1 paragraph) of how this event contributed to the character's growth (emotionally, intellectually, morally, etc).
4. The timeline can be hand-drawn, digital (Google Slides, Canva, etc.) or done as a creative poster/infographic.
5. Include page numbers or references to the novel whenever possible.

While reading the novel...

Take notes on what you read using the model below. You can do this in a notebook, on a piece of paper, or typed. Advice: Take notes by chapters.

[illegible]

The Novels

★ ***And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie**

Ten people, each with something to hide and something to fear, are invited to an isolated mansion on Indian Island by a host who, surprisingly, fails to appear. On the island they are cut off from everything but each other and the inescapable shadows of their own past lives. One by one, the guests share the darkest secrets of their wicked pasts. And one by one, they die...

Which among them is the killer and will any of them survive?

★ ***The Alchemist***

The Alchemist is the magical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure as extravagant as any ever found. From his home in Spain he journeys to the markets of Tangiers and across the Egyptian desert to a fateful encounter with the alchemist.

The story of the treasures Santiago finds along the way teaches us, as only a few stories have done, about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, above all, following our dreams.

★ ***Flowers for Algernon***

Flowers for Algernon is the beloved, classic story of a mentally disabled man whose experimental quest for intelligence mirrors that of Algernon, an extraordinary lab mouse. In poignant diary entries, Charlie tells how a brain operation increases his IQ and changes his life. As the experimental procedure takes effect, Charlie's intelligence expands until it surpasses that of the doctors who engineered his metamorphosis. The experiment seems to be a scientific breakthrough of paramount importance--until Algernon begins his sudden, unexpected deterioration. Will the same happen to Charlie?