

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.

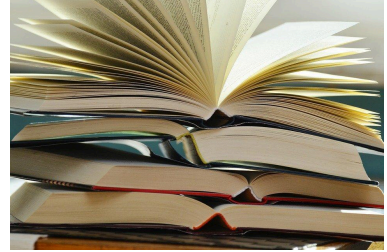
Student Signature: _____

Student Name (please print): _____

Parent Signature: _____

Dear Honors English Student:

Welcome to the Honors English I 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 I
2025 Summer Reading List

Section 1 - The Novel (due the first day of class): Select one of the following works:

- ❖ *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding
- ❖ *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon
- ❖ *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd
- ❖ *The Bean Trees* by Sue Monk Kidd
- ❖ *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles
- ❖ *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway
- ❖ *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith

Writing in Response to the Novel:

Students should create a double entry journal for the book you read. Divide the page in half. On one side of the entry you will write a quotation - a phrase or sentence - that you particularly liked and the page number. On the other side you will write your thoughts about the quotation, such as what it means and/or why you chose it. You should have at least **10** entries. (Have a variety of passages from the beginning, middle, and end of the novel.) A sample of the double entry journal is attached. Journals should be TYPEWRITTEN, but you are not required to create the blocks exactly as shown on the example. Students will also have a written assessment on the novel within the first two weeks of school; therefore, it is recommended that you keep a reading journal to take notes on plot development, character, and themes as you read.

Section II – The Memoir (due the first day of class): Select one of the following works:

- ❖ *Tuesdays With Morrie* by Mitch Albom
- ❖ *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah
- ❖ *God Grew Tired of Us* by John Buldau
- ❖ *Autobiography of a Face* by Lucy Grealy
- ❖ *I am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World*
by Malala Yousafzai

Why Memoirs? A memoirist writes with two general purposes in mind: to tell a compelling story of a part of his or her life, and to tell about the people, places, and times that had an influence on his or her personality. The reader's purpose is to understand all that the author describes. In addition, a reader will expect to derive some enjoyment from the writing and perhaps learn something about himself or herself.

- Reading memoirs encourages self-reflection.
- Reading memoirs exposes students to various beliefs, experiences, and events outside of their daily lives.
- Reading memoirs teaches students about other perspectives.
- Reading memoirs encourages students to make connections.
- Reading memoirs encourages students to think about how writers engage their readers.
- Because memoirs can be written by anyone, they demonstrate to students that anyone can be a writer.

Writing in Response to the Memoir:

Answer the following questions thoughtfully and thoroughly. **Responses should be typewritten, in complete sentences, and demonstrate your BEST WRITING SKILLS.** Also, refer to specific examples from the text to support or illustrate your answers.

1. What made you read this book? Did it live up to your expectations? Why or why not?
2. What do you think motivated the author to share his or her life story?
3. Do you think the author is trying to elicit a certain response from the reader, such as sympathy? How has this book changed or enhanced your view of the author or the subject matter of the story?
4. Discuss the book's structure and the author's use of language and writing style. How does the author draw the reader in and keep the reader engaged? Does the author convey his or her story with comedy, self-pity, or something else?
5. What is the author's most admirable quality? Is this someone you would want to know?
6. Compare this book to others you have read. Is it similar to any of them? Did you like it more or less than other books you've read? What do you think will be your lasting impression of the book?
7. Select three important images, scenes, and/or quotations that stood out for you. Explain why you chose them and how they are important to the story as a whole.

Sample Double Entry Journal

Quotation	Response/Interpretation
Page #	Commentary Options: <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ This reminds me...❖ I notice...❖ I question...❖ I'm confused because...❖ Any notes on diction(word choice), imagery, details, language as a whole, or syntax(sentence structures)❖ Any notes on the speaker, occasion, audience, purpose, subject, tone, etc.❖ Any other commentary or reflection
Page #	
Page #	

The Novels

❖ *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

At the dawn of the next world war, a plane crashes on an uncharted island, stranding a group of schoolboys. At first, with no adult supervision, their freedom is something to celebrate; this far from civilization the boys can do anything they want. Anything. They attempt to forge their own society, failing, however, in the face of terror, sin and evil. And as order collapses, as strange howls echo in the night, as terror begins its reign, the hope of adventure seems as far from reality as the hope of being rescued. Labeled a parable, an allegory, a myth, a morality tale, a parody, a political treatise, even a vision of the apocalypse, Lord of the Flies is perhaps our most memorable novel about "the end of innocence, the darkness of man's heart."

❖ *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon

Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. Although gifted with a superbly logical brain, for fifteen-year-old Christopher everyday interactions and admonishments have little meaning. He lives on patterns, rules, and a diagram kept in his pocket. Then one day, a neighbor's dog, Wellington, is killed and his carefully constructive universe is threatened. Christopher sets out to solve the murder in the style of his favourite (logical) detective, Sherlock Holmes. What follows makes for a novel that is funny, poignant and fascinating in its portrayal of a person whose curse and blessing are a mind that perceives the world entirely literally.

❖ *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd

Set in South Carolina in 1964, The Secret Life of Bees tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina--a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters, Lily is introduced to their mesmerizing world of bees and honey, and the Black Madonna. This is a remarkable novel about divine female power, a story that women will share and pass on to their daughters for years to come

❖ *The Bean Trees* by Sue Monk Kidd

Clear-eyed and spirited, Taylor Greer grew up poor in rural Kentucky with the goals of avoiding pregnancy and getting away. But when she heads west with high hopes and a barely functional car, she meets the human condition head-on. By the time Taylor arrives in Tucson, Arizona, she has acquired a completely unexpected child, a three-year-old American Indian

girl named Turtle, and must somehow come to terms with both motherhood and the necessity for putting down roots. Hers is a story about love and friendship, abandonment and belonging, and the discovery of surprising resources in apparently empty places.

❖ **A Separate Peace by John Knowles**

A Separate Peace is timeless in its description of adolescence during a period when the entire country was losing its innocence to the second world war.

Set at a boys boarding school in New England during the early years of World War II, A Separate Peace is a harrowing and luminous parable of the dark side of adolescence. Gene is a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas is a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What happens between the two friends one summer, like the war itself, banishes the innocence of these boys and their world.

❖ **The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway**

The Old Man and the Sea is one of Hemingway's most enduring works. Told in language of great simplicity and power, it is the story of an old Cuban fisherman, down on his luck, and his supreme ordeal -- a relentless, agonizing battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream. Here Hemingway recasts, in strikingly contemporary style, the classic theme of courage in the face of defeat, of personal triumph won from loss. Written in 1952, this hugely successful novella confirmed his power and presence in the literary world and played a large part in his winning the 1954 Nobel Prize for Literature.

❖ **A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith**

The beloved American classic about a young girl's coming-of-age at the turn of the century. From the moment she entered the world, Francie needed to be made of stern stuff, for the often harsh life of Williamsburg demanded fortitude, precocity, and strength of spirit. Often scorned by neighbors for her family's erratic and eccentric behavior-such as her father Johnny's taste for alcohol and Aunt Sissy's habit of marrying serially without the formality of divorce-no one, least of all Francie, could say that the Nolans' life lacked drama. By turns overwhelming, sublime, heartbreaking, and uplifting, the Nolans' daily experiences are tenderly threaded with family connectedness and raw with honesty.

The Memoirs

❖ *Tuesdays With Morrie* by Mitch Albom

Maybe it was a grandparent, or a teacher, or a colleague. Someone older, patient and wise, who understood you when you were young and searching, helped you see the world as a more profound place, gave you sound advice to help you make your way through it.

*For Mitch Albom, that person was Morrie Schwartz, his college professor from nearly twenty years ago. Maybe, like Mitch, you lost track of this mentor as you made your way, and the insights faded, and the world seemed colder. Wouldn't you like to see that person again, ask the bigger questions that still haunt you, receive wisdom for your busy life today the way you once did when you were younger? Mitch Albom had that second chance. He rediscovered Morrie in the last months of the older man's life. Knowing he was dying, Morrie visited with Mitch in his study every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college. Their rekindled relationship turned into one final "class": lessons in how to live. *Tuesdays with Morrie* is a magical chronicle of their time together, through which Mitch shares Morrie's lasting gift with the world. It's been ten years since Mitch Albom first shared the wisdom of Morrie Schwartz with the world. Now—twelve million copies later—in a new afterword, Mitch Albom reflects again on the meaning of Morrie's life lessons and the gentle, irrevocable impact of their Tuesday sessions all those years ago. . .*

❖ *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah

*This is how wars are fought now: by children, hopped-up on drugs and wielding AK-47s. Children have become soldiers of choice. In the more than fifty conflicts going on worldwide, it is estimated that there are some 300,000 child soldiers. Ishmael Beah used to be one of them. What is war like through the eyes of a child soldier? How does one become a killer? How does one stop? Child soldiers have been profiled by journalists, and novelists have struggled to imagine their lives. But until now, there has not been a first-person account from someone who came through this hell and survived. In *A Long Way Gone*, Beah, now twenty-five years old, tells a riveting story: how at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts. This is a rare and mesmerizing account, told with real literary force and heartbreaking honesty.*

❖ *God Grew Tired of Us* by John Bul Dau

"Lost Boy" John Bul Dau's harrowing experience surviving the brutal horrors of Sudanese civil war and his adjustment to life in modern America is chronicled in this inspiring memoir and featured in an award-winning documentary film of the same name. Movingly written, the book traces Dau's journey through hunger, exhaustion, terror, and violence as he fled his homeland, dodging ambushes, massacres and attacks by wild animals. His tortuous, 14-year journey began in 1987, when he was just 13, and took him on a 1,000-mile walk, barefoot, to

Ethiopia, back to Sudan, then to a refugee camp in Kenya, where he lived with thousands of other Lost Boys. In 2001, at the age of 27, he immigrated to the United States. With touching humor, Dau recounts the shock of his tribal culture colliding with life in America. He shares the joy of reuniting with his family and the challenges of making a new life for himself while never forgetting the other Lost Boys he left behind.

❖ *Autobiography of a Face* by Lucy Grealy

This powerful memoir is about the premium we put on beauty and on a woman's face in particular. It took Lucy Grealy twenty years of living with a distorted self-image and more than thirty reconstructive procedures before she could come to terms with her appearance after childhood cancer and surgery that left her jaw disfigured. As a young girl, she absorbed the searing pain of peer rejection and the paralyzing fear of never being loved.

❖ *I am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World*
by Malala Yousafzai

I Am Malala. This is my story. Malala Yousafzai was only ten years old when the Taliban took control of her region. They said music was a crime. They said women weren't allowed to go to the market. They said girls couldn't go to school. Raised in a once-peaceful area of Pakistan transformed by terrorism, Malala was taught to stand up for what she believes. So she fought for her right to be educated. And on October 9, 2012, she nearly lost her life for the cause: She was shot point-blank while riding the bus on her way home from school. No one expected her to survive. Now Malala is an international symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize winner. In this Young Readers Edition of her bestselling memoir, which has been reimagined specifically for a younger audience and includes exclusive photos and material, we hear firsthand the remarkable story of a girl who knew from a young age that she wanted to change the world -- and did. Malala's powerful story will open your eyes to another world and will make you believe in hope, truth, miracles and the possibility that one person -- one young person -- can inspire change in her community and beyond.