

## Freshman English Summer Reading Assignment 2025-2026

Hello and welcome to JP2! I am so excited to meet you all and to have you in my class. This year, you will be choosing your own summer reading book. The requirements for choosing your book are as follows:

- The student is interested in the book and chooses it to read.
- The student has never read it (or part of it) before this summer.
- Parents approve of the book.
- Its Lexile score is between 700 and 1300.
- The book chosen is a Newbery Award winner (Find a complete list at <https://abqlibrary.org/newbery/All>). There is a tab on the left to narrow down your choices according to interest ("Find a Good One").
- Once you have chosen a book, email me the title and author at [rschroeder@jp2falcons.org](mailto:rschroeder@jp2falcons.org).

After you finish reading, you should do the following before the first day of school:

1. Keep a dialectical journal (directions to follow) while reading. This is support for your assignment.
2. Insert an original chapter into the novel that transitions logically in the context of the original work and closely mirrors the author's style and craft. Your chapter should be a realistic addition to the text that demonstrates close reading of theme, setting, character development, and plot progression. This chapter should be 2-3 pages in length (double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font).

### Dialectical Journal Procedure:

As you read, choose passages that stand out to you and record them in the left-hand column of the chart, including quotation marks and page numbers. In the right column, write your response to the text (ideas/insights, questions, reflections, and comments on each passage). Choose **5-8 pieces of textual evidence** from the book. You should be selecting passages that not only interest you, but that can help you decide the theme, setting, show character development, or show how the plot progresses. Doing so will help you effectively mirror the author when creating your own chapter.

**Sample Journal Entry:** Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Harper & Row, 1988.

Text	Response
"First of all," he said, "if you can learn a simple trick, Scout, you'll get along a lot better with all kinds of folks. You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view [...] until you climb into his skin and walk around in it" (Lee 33).	Atticus is explaining to Scout that compassion is based on sympathy. In order to understand why people act a certain way, you must imagine yourself in their situation. Even if you do not agree with their actions, you can at least see their perspective. As humans, we are programmed to judge others. It is important to remember that we all have differences and react to situations accordingly.

You can respond to the text in a variety of ways. The most important thing to remember is that your observations should be specific and detailed. You can write as much as you want for each entry. You can choose to type and save your journal as a PDF or you can neatly write it by hand. Your responses should be your own thoughts and insights without the assistance of the internet, Spark Notes, or other secondary sources. I have included below a sample dialectical journal. You may choose to print it out and use it instead of creating your own.

**On the first FULL day of class, you will also be writing a response about the book, so you need to bring your book with you to school until told otherwise.** Again, I look forward to seeing you soon. Please email me if you have any questions/comments/concerns at [rschroeder@jp2falcons.org](mailto:rschroeder@jp2falcons.org). Have a wonderful summer!

Dialectical Journal

Name  
Teacher's Name  
English 9  
Date

**\*\*Insert MLA Book Citation here: Author's last name, first name. Book Title. Publisher, date published.**

Text	Response
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
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