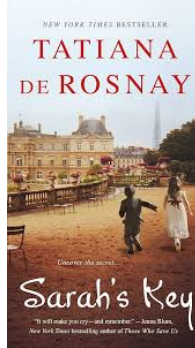


Summer Reading Assignment 2025

English 11 Honors

Objective: To enhance your understanding and critical thinking skills by analyzing and annotating various texts. You will choose one poem, one short story, and one informational text from the provided selections and create detailed annotations based on specific criteria.

Select Your Core Text -- select one (1) novel from below that fits your interests and follow the directions for annotations outlined below. This book will form the basis for a synthesis writing task you will complete upon our return to school in September, as well as literary connections to themes we will explore throughout the year.



***Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay**

A haunting and deeply moving novel that intertwines the lives of two women across different generations. Set in Paris during the Holocaust and in contemporary France, the story follows the harrowing journey of ten-year-old Sarah Starzynski, who locks her younger brother in a cupboard to protect him during the Vel' d'Hiv Roundup of 1942. As journalist Julia Jarmond investigates the event decades later, she uncovers Sarah's story and becomes consumed by the quest to uncover the truth about her fate. Through alternating narratives, the novel explores themes of guilt, resilience, and the enduring impact of historical trauma, ultimately revealing the profound connections between past and present and the power of remembrance to illuminate the darkest corners of history.



***Watchmen* by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons**

A seminal graphic novel set in an alternate version of the 1980s, where masked vigilantes were once a part of society until outlawed. The story begins with the murder of one such vigilante, The Comedian, setting off a chain of events that unravel a complex conspiracy threatening global stability. As a disparate group of former heroes investigates, including the morally conflicted Rorschach, the godlike Dr. Manhattan, and the morally ambiguous Ozymandias, the narrative explores themes of power, morality, and the consequences of unchecked ambition. Through its intricate plot, morally ambiguous characters, and deconstruction of superhero tropes, "Watchmen" offers a thought-provoking exploration of ethics, human nature, and the nature of heroism itself.

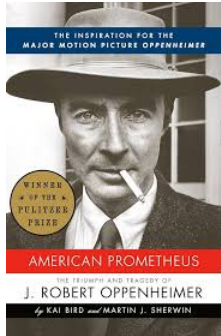


***A Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde**

The story follows the handsome and charismatic Dorian Gray, whose portrait is painted by the talented artist Basil Hallward. Dorian becomes infatuated with the idea of eternal youth and beauty, expressing a desire for his portrait to bear the brunt of his aging while he remains untouched by time. As Dorian indulges in a life of hedonism and debauchery, his portrait begins to reflect the true extent of his moral corruption, while he himself remains outwardly unblemished. As the years pass, Dorian's descent into depravity and his efforts to hide his true nature lead to tragic consequences for himself and those around him, ultimately culminating in a chilling exploration of the nature of sin, conscience, and the pursuit of aesthetic perfection.

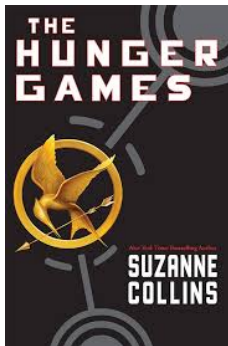
Summer Reading Assignment 2025

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American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin

This Pulitzer Prize-winning biography provides an in-depth look at the life of J. Robert Oppenheimer, covering his early years, his leadership of the Manhattan Project, and the subsequent controversies that surrounded him, particularly during the Red Scare. The book delves into his scientific achievements, his moral and ethical struggles, and his complex personality. It portrays Oppenheimer as a multifaceted individual whose ambition and intellect were pivotal in one of the most significant scientific endeavors of the 20th century, while also exploring the personal and political conflicts that defined his later years.



The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

A thrilling dystopian novel set in a future where the oppressive Capitol rules over twelve districts. Each year, to maintain control and remind the districts of their subjugation, the Capitol hosts the Hunger Games, a televised event where one boy and one girl from each district are forced to fight to the death in a vast arena. When Katniss Everdeen volunteers to take her sister's place in the Games, and navigates the brutal challenges of the arena, she becomes a symbol of resistance against the Capitol's tyranny, sparking a revolution that will change the course of her world forever. The novel is a gripping exploration of power, survival, and the human spirit's capacity for resilience in the face of oppression.

Read and Annotate:

As you read each text, make detailed annotations of your choice. You should have several annotations per chapter. Your annotations should consider all or some of the following aspects:

1. **Main Ideas:** Identify and summarize the central themes or messages of the text.
2. **Character/Plot Development:** recognize unique traits and characteristics about the main characters that inform how the story develops and evolves
3. **Figurative Devices:** Are there any important symbols, motifs, or figurative elements that add to the overall experience in the text?
4. **Significant Quotes or Passages:** Highlight & explain quotes or sections that stood out to you and explain why.
5. **Rhetorical Approaches:** Evaluate word choice and the complexity of the language used in association with conflicts as they arise. Consider **pathos** (emotional context), **ethos** (moral/ethical context), and **logos** (logical reasoning) as part of the storytelling techniques.
6. **Personal and Academic Relevance:** Connect the text to your own experiences, both personal and academic. How do the themes or messages relate to your life or studies?
7. **Important Lessons or Takeaways:** Note any important lessons/insights you gained from the text.

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Annotation Rubric

	5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points
Quantity of Annotations	Annotations are thorough, covering the text comprehensively.	Annotations are mostly thorough, covering most key parts of the text.	Annotations are adequate, covering several important parts of the text.	Annotations are somewhat limited, covering few parts of the text.	Annotations are minimal, covering very few parts of the text.	Annotations are absent or nearly absent.
Quality of Annotations	Annotations are consistently insightful and demonstrate a deep understanding of the text. They include critical thinking and make connections beyond the text.	Annotations are generally insightful and show a good understanding of the text. Some critical thinking and connections are made.	Annotations are adequate and show a basic understanding of the text. They may lack depth but are still relevant.	Annotations show limited understanding and are mostly superficial. Few critical connections are made.	Annotations are minimal and do not demonstrate understanding or engagement with the text.	No annotations or annotations are irrelevant to the text.
Variety of Annotations	Annotations include a diverse range of comments, questions, connections, predictions, and reflections.	Annotations include several types but may be missing one or two.	Annotations are mostly of one or two types, with limited variety.	Annotations lack variety and primarily consist of one type.	Annotations show very little variety and depth.	No variety in annotations.
Textual Evidence	Annotations consistently reference specific textual evidence, including quotes, page numbers, or specific examples.	Annotations frequently reference textual evidence but may occasionally lack specifics.	Annotations sometimes reference textual evidence but lack consistency.	Annotations rarely reference textual evidence.	Annotations almost never reference textual evidence.	No textual evidence is referenced.
Organization and Clarity	Annotations are well-organized, clearly written, and easy to follow. They enhance the reader's understanding of the text.	Annotations are mostly well-organized and clear, with a few minor issues.	Annotations are somewhat organized and clear but may have several issues that make them difficult to follow.	Annotations are poorly organized and unclear, making them hard to understand.	Annotations are very poorly organized and lack clarity, significantly hindering understanding.	Annotations are disorganized and incomprehensible.