

PIONEER ACADEMY SUMMER READING LIST  
2019 - 2020

**The following assignments are required to help students in our high school literature program as it is our expectation that students begin 10th grade prepared for analytical discussions and writings. Here are three independent studies to engage students prior to the beginning of the school year. They are helpful practice to develop the skills needed to work with literature.**

**Students:** it is expected that you annotate what you read, for both literary elements and authorial choices, even if annotations are not “checked” or “graded.” Annotations are essential in order to discuss and write about literature. Be thoughtful about your notes, as they are preparation to share your highlighted findings/insights through a variety of responses. Highlight or underline passages you find especially significant and then record notes in the margins. If you have questions about how to annotate or want additional resources, please visit the ninth grade Google Classroom.

Google Classroom Code:

10th Grade CP - **yanjxp**

10th Grade Honors - **3cvq7j8**

1. Recommended Poetry Study:

Choose a poet from the list below to study over the summer. Compile 8-10 print copies of poems by the writer. Read and annotate each. Then, complete a **1-2 page reaction paper** answering the following questions:

- a. What did you enjoy most about the poet’s work?
- b. What relevant topic or themes emerged from the poetry? What ideas/topics does the poet seem to take interest in? What threads (connections) exist between poems?
- c. Describe the poet’s style; what poetic techniques are utilized most frequently by the poet?

Mary Oliver

Sylvia Plath

Robert Frost

Billy Collins

Gwendolyn Brooks

Adrienne Rich

William Blake

Richard Blanco

Maya Angelou

Robert Hayden

William Carlos Williams

Rita Dove

Edna St. Vincent Millay

Emily Dickinson

Margaret Atwood

Li Young Lee

Lucille Clifton

Henry David Thoreau

Pablo Neruda

Michael Ondaatje

Nikki Giovanni

\* There are plenty of great poets to study. If you wish to run another name by me, feel free to email.

2. Recommended Classical Mythology:

It is highly beneficial for students in the Pioneer Academy English Department to have strong knowledge of texts that are foundational to Western literature. We recommend that students are knowledgeable of allusions to Greco-Roman mythology. *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton. **Take notes on everything you read.**

We will begin the year with a reading of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster. In class, you will receive specific chapters to study. If you would like to purchase your own copy of the text, or read it more thoroughly, please purchase over summer and have for the first day of school.

It is also recommended that students purchase a writing handbook such as *The Element of Style* by Strunk and White to assist with academic writing. An electronic version of this text is available on Google Classroom.

### 3. Recommended Novel/Drama Reading:

Our best advice is to read as many novels and plays as you can. Read often; read well. Become curious about literature and texts. Explore genres you have not read, by authors with which you are unfamiliar, about cultures you have yet to understand. Be a voracious scholar of books, articles, podcasts, lectures, art. Pay attention to detail. Take time to learn about an author's background and the time/place from which she or he was writing. Allow yourself to enjoy the art of literature rather than worrying about a grade. Read ONE if you are enrolled in the CP class, and TWO for the Honors class, from the following list:

Recommended: *The Things They Carried* - Tim O'Brien and *A Lesson Before Dying* - Ernest Gaines

Students are expected to also write a [dialectical journal](#) for each book.

#### 10th Grade List

Life of Pi - Yann Martel	Catch 22- Joseph Heller
The Color Purple - Alice Walker	Go Tell It On the Mountain- James Baldwin
The Kite Runner - Khaled Hosseini	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks - Rebecca Skloot
Water for Elephants - Sara Gruen	I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings - Maya Angelou
Heart of Darkness - Joseph Conrad	A Raisin in the Sun - Lorraine Hansberry
And the Mountains Echoed - Khaled Hosseini	The Secret Life of Bees - Sue Monk Kidd
This Boy's Life- A Memoir - Tobias Wolff	The Grapes of Wrath - John Steinbeck
The Catcher in the Rye- JD Salinger	The Bluest Eye - Toni Morrison
Wuthering Heights - Emily Bronte	
Their Eyes were Watching God - Zora Neale Hurston	