

PIONEER ACADEMY SUMMER READING LIST  
2019 - 2020

**The following assignments are recommended to help students as they enter our high school literature program as it is our expectation that students begin 9th 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:  
9th Grade CP - **m9dhlgx**  
9th Grade Honors - **gzxc3a**

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	Richard Blanco	Margaret Atwood
Sylvia Plath	Maya Angelou	Li Young Lee
Robert Frost	Robert Hayden	Lucille Clifton
Billy Collins	William Carlos Williams	Henry David Thoreau
Gwendolyn Brooks	Rita Dove	Pablo Neruda
Adrienne Rich	Edna St. Vincent Millay	Michael Ondaatje
William Blake	Emily Dickinson	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. Students who are entering high school should read TWO books from the following lists. Students are expected to also write a [dialectical journal](#) for each book.

*The Alchemist*, Paulo Coelho

*Speak*, Laurie Halse Anderson

*The Help*, Kathryn Stockett

*The Book Thief*, Markus Zusak

*Purple Hibiscus*, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

*The Namesake*, Jhumpa Lahiri

*The Storyteller*, Jodi Picoult

*Brown Girl Dreaming*, Jacqueline Woodson

*A Separate Peace*, John Knowles

*Tuesdays with Morrie*, Mitch Albom

*The Hunger Games*, Suzanne Collins

*Slaughterhouse-Five*, Kurt Vonnegut

*The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, Stephen Chbosky