

# PIONEER ACADEMY SUMMER READING LIST

For Students Entering 9th Grade

2021 - 2022

**The following assignments are recommended to help students as they enter our high school literature program as it is our expectation that students begin ninth 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.

## Google Classroom Codes:

Intro to Literature CP	p6ol5sf
Honors Intro to Literature	6xxwcj7

### 1. **Required** 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:

- What did you enjoy most about the poet’s work?
- 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?
- 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

### 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.**

Other recommended texts:

*How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster

*The Elements of Style* by Strunk and White

### 3. **Required** 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 at least one book from the following list AND write a [dialectical journal](#) for it.

*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 Chobosky

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, Betty Smith