

Honors English I: Summer Reading Assignment 2023

1. Reading: Your Summer Reading Assignment for Honors English I involves reading **two books** that explore the subject of survival which is the theme of the first unit we will study in August. Everyone will read the novella ***The Pearl* by John Steinbeck**. Then you will choose one of the remaining books from the list below to read as well, annotating both books for the thematic subjects of **survival, success, and dreams**. The required reading and annotations should be completed by the first day of class. You will have an in-class writing assignment over this material within the first week of school.

If you are new to the idea of annotating, annotations may include brief notes, questions, highlighted passages, sticky notes, or coded references that can be reviewed at a later time. Here is a link to a video from UT about annotations: <https://youtu.be/CNr-E8g35nI>

2. Activity: Choose one of the following activities. Be prepared to submit the assignment when school begins.

Character Correspondence: Choose one person or character from each of the two books you read that you believe would have something in common, see the world similarly, or have something to say to one another. Compose a letter from one to the other, either rejoicing, commiserating, venting, asking advice, or in some other way sharing their common bond. Then write a response from the other character. Your letters should reveal your understanding of the characters and the text.

Travel Guide: Create a touring pamphlet for one of the locations in one of the books. Research the time and location, and create your travel guide appropriate for the setting in the book. Use quotes (actual or imagined, but in context with the character and events of the book) from characters as “testimonials” to encourage travelers to visit.

Author’s Background Slideshow: Choose one of the books you read and create a slideshow that explores the author’s background, inspiration, and purpose in writing this book. Add a slide at the end to give your opinion about whether or not the author achieved his/her purpose.

- *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck (everyone reads this)
- Choose one more book from this list: *Choose a book you have not read.

Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe

Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

The Red Bandana by Tom Rinaldi

Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

Touch the Top of the World by Erik Weißenmayer

**Note: By studying a diverse body of texts we will be introduced to literature that, at times, describes behavior and expresses ideas that conflict with the Christian view of the human situation and the values of WCS. Literature reflects Truth in two ways: 1) The Truth of the universe pervades our writing and appears as symbols, themes, thoughts and ideas expressed in literature. 2) Sometimes literature shows the need for God through the emptiness and actions a character accepts or the writing reveals. As a mature audience, we will be able to evaluate the material and literature through a Christian Theistic perspective when we study material in class.*