



Honors English I: Summer Reading Assignment 2026

1. Read *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck:

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 Pearl* by John Steinbeck. You will need your own copy of this to annotate. As you read, Make notes (annotations) in your book focusing on the essential question, “**How do our choices impact our lives?**” How do the characters react to opportunities and manage the consequences of their choices? These annotations will identify the evidence you need for your in-class writing assignment 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-E8g35nl>.

***The Pearl* by John Steinbeck ISBN: 978-0-14-017737-4**

2. In addition, read one of the supplemental texts from the list below.

You will complete the following activity using this supplemental text.

Supplemental Text Options (Pick One) *Choose a book you have not read.

Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe

Touch the Top of the World by Erik Weihenmayer

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

Games of Deception: The True Story of the First U.S. Olympic Basketball Team by Andrew Maraniss

Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Courage to Soar by Simone Biles

3. Activity for your supplemental text:

Create a memory box for the main character of the novel. Use items you have around your house to represent important events in the narrative. For example, a penny could represent the cost of something in the story which created an important conflict. On a separate document, write a paragraph for each item in the box, explaining the symbolism of each item and its significance in the story. Your memory box should contain 8 symbolic items. This will be due within the first week of school.

**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 perspective when we study material in class.*