

Lutheran High School English Department

College-Ready Summer Reading 2026





To ensure that our students are better prepared for the English program, as well as the ACT and SAT college entrance exams, we at Lutheran High School find it important that our students are well-read in literature. To help them in these areas, we have developed the list below.

By reading these works, the student will begin to have a clearer understanding of literature. The works read will be referred to during the course of the school year. By reading the book(s), the student will gain a knowledge and understanding of the work(s), and it will aid in their preparation for the ACT and SAT tests, which are taken by most students who choose to enter college.




After reading the appropriate text(s) for their specific class, students will be assessed over key aspects of the works (plot, characterization, setting, narration, theme(s), etc.). Please use the provided QR codes to access the reading guide for each course. Completion of the reading guide is not required, but they are designed to support students in their reading and assessment preparation. **The assessment date(s) and format will be determined by the individual teacher and will occur the week of August 17, 2026.**

As a Christian school, we recognize that language, situations, and themes within the literature we read may not always reflect a Christian worldview. In addition, we acknowledge that, as Romans 3:23 declares, "...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." This includes characters in books, authors, teachers, and the students sitting in our classrooms. However, we will always conduct classroom discussions and activities in light of our Christian worldview and what God says in Scripture regarding any sensitive/controversial topic(s). While we do not always condone the actions or language of this fallen world, we seek to provide students with the tools to face and address these circumstances in a God-pleasing manner.

TRADITIONAL ENGLISH COURSES

Titles	Reading Guides
Freshmen: Intro to Literature <i>The Pearl</i> by John Steinbeck	
Sophomores: American Literature <i>The Old Man and the Sea</i> by Ernest Hemingway	
Juniors: World Literature <i>The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society</i> by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows	
Seniors: British Literature <i>The Screwtape Letters</i> by C.S. Lewis	

HONORS/AP ENGLISH COURSES

Titles	Reading Guides
<p>Freshmen: Honors Intro to Literature <i>Evangeline: A Tale of Acadie</i> by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow</p> <p><i>Watership Down</i> by Richard Adams</p>	
<p>Sophomores: Honors American Literature *A physical copy of each book is required.* <i>Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet</i> by Jamie Ford</p> <p><i>How to Read Literature Like a Professor</i> by Thomas C. Foster (2nd Edition, ISBN 978-0062301673) *You may skip Chapters 16-17.*</p>	
<p>Juniors: AP Language & Composition <i>Into the Wild</i> by Jon Krakauer</p> <p><i>They Say, I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing</i> by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein (6th Edition, ISBN 978-1324070030)</p>	
<p>Seniors: AP Literature & Composition <i>All the Light We Cannot See</i> by Anthony Doerr</p> <p>Assorted Poems (linked in the Reading Guide)</p>	