

Advanced English 2 Summer Reading 2025
John Marshall High School

Welcome to Advanced English II.

Reading is one of the best things a student can do to prepare themselves for the challenges of the upcoming school year. Enjoying a good book will help expand vocabulary, deepen critical thinking, and enhance focus and imagination. Equally important, reading is the very best way to strengthen writing skills!

As a John Marshall High School and/or Law and Medical Services Advanced English student, we ask that students **read at least one novel** from the list below and **make at least 10 annotations related to various literary elements**. (After the list of titles, more notes about annotations are provided.) **We strongly encourage the student to have their own copy of the text** to interact with while reading and to bring it to school at the start of the school year. Additional assignments and discussions connected to the book will begin promptly as the school year begins.

If the following books do not align with family or personal values, please choose an appropriate high school level book that the student has not read before. The following titles are popular in the library, award winners, or recommended by teachers. **Some titles may contain adult themes and content, so we encourage students to do some research or speak with parents/guardians before selecting a title.**

Step One: Look over the list of titles. Discuss with parent/guardian. Select a book.

There Might Be Kissing: Romance
<div>1. <i>Eleanor and Park</i> by Rainbow Rowell</div> <div>2. <i>The Great Gatsby</i>* by F. Scott Fitzgerald</div> <div>3. <i>A Long Petal of the Sea</i> by Isabel Allende</div> <div>4. <i>One Day</i> by David Nicholls</div> <div>5. <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>* by Jane Austen</div> <div>6. <i>The Song of Achilles</i> by Madeline Miller</div> <div>7. <i>The Sun is Also a Star</i> by Nicola Yoon</div>
Nice Place to Visit, But I Wouldn’t Want to Live There: Sci Fi, Dystopian, Post Apocalyptic
<div>1. <i>Anthem</i>* by Ayn Rand</div> <div>3. <i>The Circle</i> by Dave Eggers</div> <div>4. <i>Ender’s Game</i>* by Orson Scott Card</div> <div>5. <i>The Illustrated Man</i>* by Ray Bradbury</div> <div>6. <i>Uglies</i> by Scott Westerfeld</div> <div>7. <i>Unwind</i>* by Neal Shusterman</div>
Everybody Has Secrets: Mystery
<div>1. <i>Allegedly</i> by Tiffany D. Jackson</div> <div>2. <i>Bellweather Rhapsody</i> by Kate Racculia</div> <div>3. <i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime</i>* by Mark Haddon</div> <div>4. <i>Mercy Rule</i> by Tom Leveen</div> <div>5. <i>Monday’s Not Coming</i> by Tiffany D. Jackson</div> <div>6. <i>Mr. Penumbra’s 24-Hour Bookstore</i> by Robin Sloan</div> <div>7. <i>The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency</i> by Alexander McCall Smith</div> <div>8. <i>The Raven Boys</i> by Maggie Stiefvater</div> <div>9. <i>Wuthering Heights</i> by Emily Bronte</div>

Creepy and We Like it: Horror/Thriller
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Blue Moon</i> by Lee Child2. <i>Frankenstein*</i> by Mary Shelly3. <i>The Girl With All the Gifts</i> by M.R. Carey4. <i>Gwendy’s Button Box</i> by Stephen King and Richard Chizmar5. <i>A Headful of Ghosts</i> by Paul Tremblay6. <i>In the Woods</i> by Tana French7. <i>NOS4A2</i> by Joe Hill8. <i>The Ocean at the End of the Lane</i> by Neil Gaiman9. <i>The Poet</i> by Michael Connelly10. <i>The Raven’s Tale</i> by Cat Winters
Remembering Wars and Other Larger-Than-Life Events: Historical Fiction
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>11/23/63</i> by Stephen King2. <i>All the Light We Cannot See</i> by Anthony Doerr3. <i>The Book Thief*</i> by Markus Zusak4. <i>The Fountains of Silence</i> by Ruta Sepetys5. <i>Out of Darkness</i> by Ashley Hope Pérez6. <i>The Tattooist of Auschwitz</i> by Heather Morris7. <i>The Water Dancer</i> by Ta-Nahisi Coates8. <i>The Yellow Birds</i> by Kevin Powers9. <i>No Fear Shakespeare: Julius Caesar</i> by William Shakespeare
What? You Thought only Boys could be Tough?: Books with Strong Female Protagonists
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>The Book Thief*</i> by Markus Zusak2. <i>The Elegance of the Hedgehog</i> by Muriel Barbery3. <i>The Impossible Knife of Memory</i> by Laurie Halse Anderson4. <i>Pride and Prejudice*</i> by Jane Austen5. <i>Shadow and Bone</i> by Leigh Bardugo6. <i>Stepsister</i> by Jennifer Donnelly7. <i>A Very Large Expanse of Sea</i> by Tahereh Mafi
So, You Think You’re a Tough Guy?: Books with Strong Male Protagonists
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i> by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer2. <i>Bridge of Clay</i> by Markus Zusak3. <i>Fahrenheit 451*</i> by Ray Bradbury4. <i>Gutless</i> by Carl Deuker5. <i>Here to Stay</i> by Sara Farizan6. <i>I Am Alfonso Jones</i> by Tony Medina7. <i>News of the World</i> by Paulette Jiles8. <i>Things Fall Apart*</i> by Chinua Achebe
This Is My Life: Coming of Age
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe</i> by Benjamin Saenz2. <i>Bless Me, Ultima*</i> by Rudolfo Anaya3. <i>The Catcher in the Rye*</i> by J.D. Salinger4. <i>Darius The Great is Not Okay</i> by Adbi Khorram5. <i>Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close</i> by Jonathan Safran Foer6. <i>To Kill a Mockingbird*</i> by Harper Lee7. <i>We Were Liars</i> by E. Lockhart
<p>*Indicates vetted, approved titles from the NISD English I-IV Approved Reading List</p>

Step Two: Gather materials. Get a copy or access to the book. Possible supplies: highlighters, pen/pencil, and paper or sticky notes.

Step Three: Understanding and Completing the Annotations Task. At least 10 annotations will be turned in, so if they are written in the book, be prepared to choose 10 annotations and write them on paper for submission.

- Identify specific literary elements as you are reading:
characterization-direct or indirect, setting, theme, conflict, symbolism, imagery, diction, an element of figurative language, tone, mood, irony, point of view, foreshadowing, flashback, various aspects of plot, etc.
- Each entry should be gathered from various parts of the book (beginning, middle, and end) and needs to have:
 - the page number,
 - quote or paraphrase from the text,
 - state the literary element that is being referenced, and
 - the explanation/analysis connected to the literary element. (*Sample questions: Why is this literary element important? How does it develop the literary element? How is the literary element changing/developing through the text?*)

Please contact Brandi Benson, English Coordinator at John Marshall High School, with any questions, brandi.benson@nisd.net.