

2020 ENGLISH 12 HONORS | SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Dear English 12 Honors students,

Welcome to British Literature! Summer reading helps both to keep your brain engaged in between school years and to get you ready for the type of literature we will tackle during the upcoming academic year. Since summer reading should be fun and relaxing, I will not require intense close reading (although feel free if you enjoy doing this--as I do...). However, you will need to remember certain details about the books when I assess them during the first week of school, so I have provided a framework for doing this effectively and efficiently.

I. READ THREE (3) BOOKS

1. ***Station Eleven***: by Emily St. John Mandel (2011). Everyone in the school will be reading either this book of *Fever 1793* by Laurie R. King or *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel. We will use it during the first days of school to engage in **inter-grade level/faculty discussions** (sort of like we did for *Dominion over Palm and Pine*). In British Literature (even though St. John Mandel is Canadian), we will use *Station Eleven* to establish norms for analysis and discussion.

Questions to think about while reading *Station Eleven*:

- a. What survival tactics prove successful in adjusting to life after a pandemic? Why do you think the Traveling Symphony's motto is "Survival is not enough"?
 - b. How would you describe resilience in this world? What are specific examples?
 - c. The situation in *Station Eleven* is much more extreme than ours, but do you see any parallels with life in 2020?
2. Choose TWO (2) books from this giant list of "best British novels" [as compiled by the British Broadcasting Corporation \(BBC\)](#) in 2015 with input from literary critics who live outside the U.K.

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| 100. The Code of the Woosters (PG Wodehouse, 1938) | 73. The Blue Flower (Penelope Fitzgerald, 1995) |
| 99. There but for the (Ali Smith, 2011) | 72. The Heart of the Matter (Graham Greene, 1948) |
| 98. Under the Volcano (Malcolm Lowry, 1947) | 71. Old Filth (Jane Gardam, 2004) |
| 97. The Chronicles of Narnia (CS Lewis, 1949-1954) | 70. Daniel Deronda (George Eliot, 1876) |
| 96. Memoirs of a Survivor (Doris Lessing, 1974) | 69. Nostromo (Joseph Conrad, 1904) |
| 95. The Buddha of Suburbia (Hanif Kureishi, 1990) | 68. A Clockwork Orange (Anthony Burgess, 1962) |
| 94. The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner (James Hogg, 1824) | 67. Crash (JG Ballard 1973) |
| 93. Lord of the Flies (William Golding, 1954) | 66. Sense and Sensibility (Jane Austen, 1811) |
| 92. Cold Comfort Farm (Stella Gibbons, 1932) | 65. Orlando (Virginia Woolf, 1928) |
| 91. The Forsyte Saga (John Galsworthy, 1922) | 64. The Way We Live Now (Anthony Trollope, 1875) |
| 90. The Woman in White (Wilkie Collins, 1859) | 63. The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie (Muriel Spark, 1961) |
| 89. The Horse's Mouth (Joyce Cary, 1944) | 62. Animal Farm (George Orwell, 1945) |
| 88. The Death of the Heart (Elizabeth Bowen, 1938) | 61. The Sea, The Sea (Iris Murdoch, 1978) |
| 87. The Old Wives' Tale (Arnold Bennett, 1908) | 60. Sons and Lovers (DH Lawrence, 1913) |
| 86. A Legacy (Sybille Bedford, 1956) | 59. The Line of Beauty (Alan Hollinghurst, 2004) |
| 85. Regeneration Trilogy (Pat Barker, 1991-1995) | 58. Loving (Henry Green, 1945) |
| 84. Scoop (Evelyn Waugh, 1938) | 57. Parade's End (Ford Madox Ford, 1924-1928) |
| 83. Barchester Towers (Anthony Trollope, 1857) | 56. Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit (Jeanette Winterson, 1985) |
| 82. The Patrick Melrose Novels (Edward St Aubyn, 1992-2012) | 55. Gulliver's Travels (Jonathan Swift, 1726) |
| 81. The Jewel in the Crown (Paul Scott, 1966) | 54. NW (Zadie Smith, 2012) |
| 80. Excellent Women (Barbara Pym, 1952) | 53. Wide Sargasso Sea (Jean Rhys, 1966) |
| 79. His Dark Materials (Philip Pullman, 1995-2000) | 52. New Grub Street (George Gissing, 1891) |
| 78. A House for Mr Biswas (VS Naipaul, 1961) | 51. Tess of the d'Urbervilles (Thomas Hardy, 1891) |
| 77. Of Human Bondage (W Somerset Maugham, 1915) | 50. A Passage to India (EM Forster, 1924) |
| 76. Small Island (Andrea Levy, 2004) | 49. Possession (AS Byatt, 1990) |
| 75. Women in Love (DH Lawrence, 1920) | 48. Lucky Jim (Kingsley Amis, 1954) |
| 74. The Mayor of Casterbridge (Thomas Hardy, 1886) | 47. The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman (Laurence Sterne, 1759) |

46. Midnight's Children (Salman Rushdie, 1981)
45. The Little Stranger (Sarah Waters, 2009)
44. Wolf Hall (Hilary Mantel, 2009)
43. The Swimming Pool Library (Alan Hollinghurst, 1988)
42. Brighton Rock (Graham Greene, 1938)
41. Dombey and Son (Charles Dickens, 1848)
40. Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (Lewis Carroll, 1865)
39. The Sense of an Ending (Julian Barnes, 2011)
38. The Passion (Jeanette Winterson, 1987)
37. Decline and Fall (Evelyn Waugh, 1928)
36. A Dance to the Music of Time (Anthony Powell, 1951-1975)
35. Remainder (Tom McCarthy, 2005)
34. Never Let Me Go (Kazuo Ishiguro, 2005)
33. The Wind in the Willows (Kenneth Grahame, 1908)
32. A Room with a View (EM Forster, 1908)
31. The End of the Affair (Graham Greene, 1951)
30. Moll Flanders (Daniel Defoe, 1722)
29. Brick Lane (Monica Ali, 2003)
28. Villette (Charlotte Brontë, 1853)
27. Robinson Crusoe (Daniel Defoe, 1719)
26. The Lord of the Rings (JRR Tolkien, 1954)
25. White Teeth (Zadie Smith, 2000)
24. The Golden Notebook (Doris Lessing, 1962)
23. Jude the Obscure (Thomas Hardy, 1895)
22. The History of Tom Jones, a Foundling (Henry Fielding, 1749)
21. Heart of Darkness (Joseph Conrad, 1899)
20. Persuasion (Jane Austen, 1817)
19. Emma (Jane Austen, 1815)
18. Remains of the Day (Kazuo Ishiguro, 1989)
17. Howards End (EM Forster, 1910)
16. The Waves (Virginia Woolf, 1931)
15. Atonement (Ian McEwan, 2001)
14. Clarissa (Samuel Richardson, 1748)
13. The Good Soldier (Ford Madox Ford, 1915)
12. Nineteen Eighty-Four (George Orwell, 1949)
11. Pride and Prejudice (Jane Austen, 1813)
10. Vanity Fair (William Makepeace Thackeray, 1848)
9. Frankenstein (Mary Shelley, 1818)
8. David Copperfield (Charles Dickens, 1850)
7. Wuthering Heights (Emily Brontë, 1847)
6. Bleak House (Charles Dickens, 1853)
5. Jane Eyre (Charlotte Brontë, 1847)
4. Great Expectations (Charles Dickens, 1861)
3. Mrs. Dalloway (Virginia Woolf, 1925)
2. To the Lighthouse (Virginia Woolf, 1927)
1. Middlemarch (George Eliot, 1874)

NOTE: Some of these books are challenging. Sample them (many have pdfs online) before you choose which ones you want to commit to. Also, feel free to consult online discussion and analysis in addition to (NOT instead of) your own reading.

II. REMEMBER YOUR THREE BOOKS (Read these instructions carefully)

A. Create one 8 x 11½ page about each book including the following information in whichever order works for you (that's three one-page information sheets):

- Author, title, date of **first publication**
- Works Cited entry for the **edition of the book** that you actually read
- Important characters with **brief** descriptions
- Setting, including both time and place
- Overall plot--this should include just enough detail to help you remember the book. **Don't go overboard on unnecessary intricacies.**
- Themes--overall meaning or main idea (both direct and indirect)

B. Type a one-page **personal response** (200-300 words) to each book. (Yes, this is very open-ended.)

- What did you like about it? Or hate about it?
- What type of reader would you recommend it to?
- Did you relate to any of the characters? Why or why not?

C. **Quotes:** Collect at least **three** quotes per book (with page numbers). Gather them however you choose.

They should be accessible for discussion (and assessment) during the first week of class.

IMPORTANT: THIS WORK IS REQUIRED TO REMAIN IN ENGLISH 12 HONORS.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THIS ASSIGNMENT ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS, YOU WILL BE MOVED TO ENGLISH 12.

I am looking forward to our year together as all of you move toward graduation.

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