

## Why summer reading?

Students lose reading skills during the summer months. Yet, students who read over the summer break sustain reading comprehension and vocabulary acquisition and enjoy greater learning gains and test scores during subsequent school years.

## Learning objective:

Students will independently read and then write and speak about a classic British novel so that honors teachers can assess their initial reading comprehension, literary analysis thesis writing ability, and public speaking skill and level of confidence.

## What are my book choices? Can I use an electronic version (yes) or do I have to have a print copy (no)?

### Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* (1847)

- \$.99 Kindle Version: [http://www.amazon.com/Jane-Eyre-Charlotte-Bronte-ebook/dp/B00E3DC2LK/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1400239530&sr=8-1&keywords=jane+eyre+kindle](http://www.amazon.com/Jane-Eyre-Charlotte-Bronte-ebook/dp/B00E3DC2LK/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1400239530&sr=8-1&keywords=jane+eyre+kindle)
- \$5.50 [http://www.amazon.com/Jane-Eyre-Dover-Thrift-Editions/dp/0486424499/ref=sr\\_1\\_8?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1462981097&sr=1-8&keywords=jane+eyre&refinements=p\\_n\\_feature\\_browse-bin%3ADover+Thrift+Editions](http://www.amazon.com/Jane-Eyre-Dover-Thrift-Editions/dp/0486424499/ref=sr_1_8?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1462981097&sr=1-8&keywords=jane+eyre&refinements=p_n_feature_browse-bin%3ADover+Thrift+Editions)

### Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859)

- Free Kindle Version: [http://www.amazon.com/Tale-Two-Cities-Charles-Dickens-ebook/dp/B004EHZXVQ/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1400239409&sr=8-1&keywords=a+tale+of+two+cities](http://www.amazon.com/Tale-Two-Cities-Charles-Dickens-ebook/dp/B004EHZXVQ/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1400239409&sr=8-1&keywords=a+tale+of+two+cities)
- \$3.16 [http://www.amazon.com/Tale-Cities-Dover-Thrift-Editions/dp/0486406512/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1400239409&sr=8-2&keywords=a+tale+of+two+cities](http://www.amazon.com/Tale-Cities-Dover-Thrift-Editions/dp/0486406512/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1400239409&sr=8-2&keywords=a+tale+of+two+cities)

## What do I have to do over the summer?

Read a classic European novel over the summer (Either Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* or Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*). No written work is required over the summer.

## What will I be expected to know and be able to do with this text at the beginning of the school year?

- Honors students' literary analysis writing pre-assessment( the first week of school) will be tied to their summer reading novel
- Honors students will participate in a discussion about their novel during the first two weeks of school so teachers can assess students' initial ability to analytically discuss literature

## What do I do if I am having a hard time reading and understanding the book I chose?

Perseverance is a life skill we value in humanities! Don't immediately write your counselor to drop honors block. Instead, make reading more of an active, interactive process.

- Find a buddy to read with and set a reading schedule, and then hold each other accountable for due dates. Meet to discuss the text periodically throughout the summer and share your notes
- Annotate the text with questions, connections, and analytical (opinion-based) notes
- Look up words you don't understand (this is very easy in electronic texts!)
- Ask questions about the story to other students or adults
- Summarize passages or chapters in your own words
- Re-read hard-to-understand passages
- Listen to an audio version of the text as you read to increase your focus on the text
- As a last resort, after reading and annotating the original prose, read a summary to confirm your comprehension of the plot. Do not rely only on a summary of the text: our role in tenth-grade honors is to analyze what dominant writing techniques were used to convey the plot, and you won't be able to do that if you only read a summary of the text.

## Parent involvement in summer reading: How can a parent figure out whether a child understands what he or she is reading?

Essentially, make reading more of an interactive process in order to boost fluency and comprehension. There are different methods, but some of the most effective are relatively simple:

- Ask questions and allow the student to ask questions about the story
- Summarize passages or chapters or ask the student to summarize

## Common Core Standards pre-assessed using summer reading texts at the beginning of the school year:

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.3 Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.1 Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.