English 4 Honors University Summer Reading 2025-2026

Please be aware that students will be held responsible for the assignments on the first day of the fall semester. If a student chooses to change the level of course or class over the summer, the student will be held responsible for the summer assignments for the courses reflected on the schedule for the first day of school. If you have questions about the assignments, please contact the Language Arts Department Head, Andrea Weaver, at weavera@pcsb.org. If you have questions regarding which course your student is enrolled in for the fall, please contact your guidance counselor.

1. Choose a fictional novel (high school reading level)
2. Read your novel and complete the Essay Assignment
3. Research: 12 Steps of a Hero’s Journey. Complete A Hero’s Journey Time Line for your novel (suggested: www.gramarly.com>hero)
4. Complete the time line for the hero/main character of your novel.
5. Be ready to turn in both your essay and time line during the first week of class

Essay Assignment for fictional novel:

Write a character analysis about the protagonist from your novel. Essays need to be original, typed in 5-paragraph style (will be submitted on canvas), and contain 500-600 words. Please edit for proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Do not summarize the plot. Do not use AI. Focus on the main character and his development. Follow the questions on this outline in order for your five paragraphs. You will include: --Introduction paragraph: state title, author of your book, name of the main character, theme of this novel, and conflict (briefly) Why did you choose this book? --Setting: Where and when does the story take place? How did the setting or time period effect the development of the main character? Is the protagonist typical to this setting or is he out of place and time? Could this story and main character have a similar conflict or quest in a different setting? --Characterization methods: How did the author developed the main character? Give examples of the following characterization methods used : description, actions, effect/reaction on others, dialogue, stream of conscience/thoughts. How do the other characters feel or speak about him/her? --Conflict or problem: What conflict or problem does the main character face and how does he/she solve his/her problem? Does he/she go on a quest or journey? Does the main character have a mission that must be completed or a promise that must be fulfilled? Does the main character have help from someone or something else to complete his/her journey/mission? --Conclusion paragraph: How did the main character change from the start to the end of the story? What did he/she accomplish? Did the main character seem real vs fictional, and was his/her problem/conflict believable? If you could change something about this story, what would you change or add? Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not? Would you want to see this story as a movie? Which actor might you pick to play the lead role? How would you rate this story on a five star scale?