

BHS English
HONORS Summer Reading 2017

The BHS Summer Reading Program is designed to allow students to continue to develop their reading comprehension and analysis skills during the summer weeks. The titles and authors are listed below for each grade level section for the Honors courses.

Students will be expected to complete sections of readings during the summer weeks prior to the start of the school year. Upon returning to school, students will be expected to bring notations, questions, and comments to class in order to participate in “boot camp” seminars regarding their choice of book from the list attached. As the reading groups continue to meet at various times throughout the first few weeks of school, students will build a foundational understanding of the books’ characters, themes, and authorial styles and intentions.

The summer reading assignment will culminate with a formal essay written as the fall semester’s performance essay.

Students should note that each novel below will list the expected reading schedule that should be completed by Friday, August 4th.

NOTE: This assignment is NOT the assignment for College Prep or AP courses.

9th Grade Honors Literature and Composition

The Book Thief, Markus Zusak

(Read through the end of Part Three - “The Struggler, Concluded” - by Friday, August 4th, 2017)

It’s just a small story really, about among other things: a girl, some words, an accordionist, some fanatical Germans, a Jewish fist-fighter, and quite a lot of thievery. Set during World War II in Germany, [this] is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can’t resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau.

I Am Malala: The Story of the Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban, Malala Yousafzai

(Note: Please select this version rather than the Young Reader’s Version, which has a similar title.)

(Read through chapter 9 by Friday, August 4th, 2017)

I come from a country that was created at midnight. When I almost died it was just after midday. When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she became a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Maus I and Maus II, Art Spiegelman

(These count as one selection. Students must read both.)

(Read through *Maus I* by Friday, August 4th, 2017)

Maus I: My Father Bleeds History and Maus II: And Here My Troubles Began. Combined, these graphic novels tell the story of Vladek Spiegelman and his wife, a Jewish couple living and surviving in Hitler's Europe. By addressing the horror of the Holocaust through cartoons, the author captures the everyday reality of fear and is able to explore the guilt, relief and extraordinary sensation of survival.