

Northridge Summer 2025 Reading Program High School

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."

— Joseph Addison

Level	Title	Author	Publisher	Publ. Date
Freshman	The Fellowship of the Ring ISBN 13: 978-0345339706	J.R.R. Tolkien	Del Rey	1986
Sophomores	Great Expectations ISBN 13: 978-0486415864	Charles Dickens	Dover	2001
Juniors	The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn ISBN 13: 978-0486280615	Mark Twain	Dover	1994
Seniors	Crime and Punishment ISBN 13: 978-0486415871	Fyodor Dostoevsky	Dover	2001

Instructions

All students are required to make annotations in their books in preparation for a test on the summer reading selection(s) in their English classes in the fall.

Students should purchase the book on their own, using the Publisher and Publish Date above to find the right edition.

Your English teacher will collect your summer reading book on the first day of school, in order to grade your annotations. The annotation guidelines are on the next page.

Annotations:

Responding to the Literature as You Read

Rather than simply read the assigned books, we want to encourage you to think critically about what you're reading. To help you with this, you will be making annotations directly in the book.

Making Annotations

What is annotating?

- An act of active reading which requires the reader to do more than merely absorb the plot or superficial meaning of a work.
- Recording notes about what happens, important questions, symbols, rhetorical elements, and important ideas.
- It includes: summarizing, commenting, and connecting (a given passage to themes, ideas, or plot points from the book), in addition to marking the text.
- An essential skill of a critical reader and analytical thinker and writer.

How do I annotate literature?

- Summarize important plot elements (3-5 words) at the top of the page
- Record interpretative questions as you read.
- Look up words and allusions that you don't know.
- Highlight or underline only a few of the most important statements or ideas in the literary work.
- Use a variety of symbols to indicate what parts of the work need further discussion or investigation. [Commonly used symbols: * (for key passages), ? (for passages that raise important questions), ! (for information that is surprising)]

Why bother with annotations?

- Annotating provides you with a way of interacting with the literature which is an essential skill for the AP exams, for college, and for life.
- It will give you a better recollection of what you read.
- It will provide you with what you need to study for quizzes and tests.
- It will assist you in discussing and writing about literature.
- It will help you to monitor your own understanding of the work.
- It will enrich your reading experience with depth and meaning.

Grading*

- A = the book contains frequent marginal notes (every couple of pages)
- B or C range = the book contains some marginal notes and signs of interacting with the work throughout the book
- D or F range = the book contains a few, inconsistent comments or endnotes with minimal signs of interacting with the work

* To achieve higher-level grades, students' marginal notes (every couple of pages) should not merely summarize plot developments, but reveal their efforts to analyze and interpret the work so as to understand it at a deep level.