

FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL *of* CHARLESTON

ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE



CHRISTIAN
PERSPECTIVE

Rising 10th Grade Summer Reading Assignment 2025-2026 School Year

Your summer reading assignment is based on the English you are taking for the 2025-2026 school year.

10th Grade American Literature with Ms. Schmidt

1. Students should read, **annotate**, and be prepared for an assessment, and/or to apply their knowledge of the novel, the first week of school on the following:
 - [Fahrenheit 451](#) by Ray Bradbury
2. Students should then read **one** book of their choice from the list linked on the following Google Slides Presentation and complete the choice project for their chosen book.
 - [Choice Book Assignment](#)

How to Properly Annotate a Text

Annotating a text, or marking the pages with notes, is an excellent, if not essential, way to make the most out of the reading you do for college courses. Annotations make it easy to find important information quickly when you look back and review a text. They help you familiarize yourself with both the content and organization of what you read. They provide a way to begin engaging with ideas and issues directly through comments, questions, associations, or other reactions that occur to you as you read. In all these ways, annotating a text makes the reading process an active one, not just background for writing assignments, but an integral first step in the writing process.

A well-annotated text will accomplish all of the following:

- Clearly identify where in the text important ideas and information are located
- Express the main ideas of a text
- Trace the development of ideas/arguments throughout a text
- Introduce a few of the reader's thoughts and reactions

Ideally, you should read a text through once before making major annotations. You may just want to circle unfamiliar vocabulary or concepts. This way, you will have a clearer idea about where major ideas and important information are in the text, and your annotating will be more efficient.

CIRCLING: As you read a story, poem or excerpt you will often stumble over terms you are unfamiliar with. When annotating, it is crucial to circle and later define the terms in the margin. Remember those words were deliberately chosen by the author.

HIGHLIGHTING: Using a highlighter, underline key words and phrases or major ideas is the most common form of annotating texts. Many people use this method to make it easier to review material, especially for exams. Highlighting is also a good way of picking out specific language within a text that you may want to cite or quote in a piece of writing. However, overreliance on highlighting is unwise for two reasons. First, there is a tendency to highlight more information than necessary, especially when done on a first reading. Second, highlighting is the least active form of annotating. Instead of being a way to begin thinking and interacting with ideas in texts, highlighting can become a postponement of that process. On the other hand, highlighting is a useful way of marking parts of a text that you want to make notes about. And it's a good idea to highlight the words or phrases of a text that are referred to by your other annotations.

PARAPHRASE/SUMMARY OF MAIN IDEAS: A series of brief notes in the margins beside important ideas gives you a handy summary right on the pages of the text itself, and if you can take the substance of a sentence or paragraph and condense it into a few words, you should have little trouble clearly demonstrating your understanding of the ideas in question in your own writing. (Pro tip: Use yellow sticky notes for this.)

DESCRIPTIVE OUTLINE: A descriptive outline shows the organization of a piece of writing, breaking it down to show where ideas are introduced and where they are developed. A descriptive outline allows you to see not only where the main ideas are but also where the details, facts, explanations, and other kinds of support for those ideas are located.

COMMENTS/RESPONSES: Your own thoughts and considerations should be included in the margins of an annotation. This allows you to go beyond understanding a text's meaning and organization by:

- Noting your reactions
- Agreement/disagreement
- Questions you may have
- Related personal experience, connection to ideas from other texts, class discussions, etc. (Pro tip: Use blue sticky notes for this.)

Please remember: Summer reading assignments will be ***graded*** for all students in American Literature.