

Isle of Wight Academy 2025/26
Required Summer Reading Assignment
9th Grade

The goals of the summer reading assignments for IWA are to improve literacy and to promote lifelong reading. As students grow and mature, they need to continually practice their reading skills. The lists are based on recommendations from classroom teachers, librarians, and students. Each reading selection has an assignment designed to enhance the reading, thought processes, and message of the selection.

Choose One Option:

Option 1 Read *Crooked House* by Agatha Christie

Summary - Three generations of the Leonides family live together under wealthy patriarch Aristide. His first wife dies and her sister, Edith, has cared for the household since then. His second wife is the indolent Brenda, who is much younger and is suspected of having a love affair with the grandchildren's tutor. After Aristide is poisoned by his own eye medication, his granddaughter Sophia tells the narrator and fiancé Charles Hayward that they cannot marry until the killer is apprehended. Charles' father, "The Old Man," is the Assistant Commissioner of Scotland Yard, so Charles investigates from the inside along with assigned detective Chief Inspector Taverner. When 12-year-old Josephine is discovered seriously injured by a booby-trap and Nanny is poisoned by hot chocolate after Brenda and the tutor are arrested, the danger escalates to a surprise finish.

Assignment:

1 See the Reader's Guide to Annotation posted with Summer Reading lists on the school website. Use the guidelines given to annotate the novel as you read. All annotations must be in RED ink. Annotations will be graded.

2. Complete the Character Chart, included with this assignment, as you read.

The annotated novel and the Character Chart will be due on the first day of school.

Crooked House By Agatha Christie

Character	Alibi/Defense	Suspicious Words/Deeds	Others' perceptions of this character	Your suspicions & supporting evidence
Charles Hayward				
Sophia Leonides				
Brenda Leonides				
Magda West				
Edith de Haviland				
Roger Leonides				
Clemency Leonides				

Laurence Brown				
Josephine Leonides Eustace Leonides				
Janet Rowe				
Chief Inspector Taverner				
"This Old Man"				
Philip Leonides				

OR

Option 2: Student/Parent Book Club (This book has sensitive subject matter)

You and a parent or guardian read together the book *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson. After you have both read the book you both will answer and discuss the Book Club questions (attached, to turn in). Then the student will write a 400-500 word essay summarizing the book and giving your opinion of the book. On the first day of school you will turn in: Your answers to the questions, your parent's/guardian's answers to the questions, and the essay.

Book Club Questions: Answer on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What was your favorite part of the book? What was your least favorite?
2. Did you race to the end, or was it more of a slow burn?
3. Which scene has stuck with you the most?
4. What did you think of the writing? Are there any standout sentences?
5. Did you reread any passages? If so, which ones?
6. Would you want to read another book by this author?
7. Did reading the book impact your mood? If yes, how so?
8. What surprised you most about the book?
9. How did your opinion of the book change as you read it?
10. If you could ask the author anything, what would it be?
11. How does the book's title work in relation to the book's contents?
12. If you could give the book a new title, what would it be?
13. Is this book overrated or underrated?
14. Did this book remind you of any other books?
15. How did it impact you? Do you think you'll remember it in a few months or years?

16. Would you ever consider re-reading it? Why or why

17. Who do you most want to read this book?

18. Are there lingering questions from the book you're still thinking about?

19. Did the book strike you as original?