

Isle of Wight Academy
2026 Required Summer Reading 10th Grade
Mrs. Manner



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 book titles are based on recommendations from classroom teachers, librarians, students, and the College Board. Each reading selection has an assignment designed to enhance the reading, thought processes, and message of the selection.

Please note: The book list, along with works read in this class, may contain mature themes, and challenging topics, situations, or subject matter.

You will choose ONE of the following books to read and annotate. **See the Reader's Guide to Annotation posted with Summer Reading lists on the school website.**

I. *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng

In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is planned – from the layout of the winding roads, to the colors of the houses, to the successful lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules. Enter Mia Warren – an enigmatic artist and single mother – who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenage daughter, Pearl, and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Elena is determined to uncover the secrets in Mia's past. However, her obsession will come at unexpected and devastating costs.

II. *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines

Set in a small Cajun community in the late 1940's, *A Lesson Before Dying* is about Jefferson, a young black man, who is an unwitting party to a liquor store shootout in which three men are killed. He is the only survivor, is convicted of murder, and sentenced to death. Grant Wiggins, who left his hometown for the university, has returned to the plantation school to teach. As he struggles with his decision whether to stay or escape to another state, his aunt and Jefferson's godmother persuade him to visit Jefferson in his cell and impart his learning and his pride to Jefferson before his death. In the end, the two men forge a bond as they both come to understand the heroism of resisting – and defying – the unexpected.

III. *Unwind* by Neil Shusterman

A futuristic tale that follows three teens who all become runaways after their parents have chosen them to be "unwound," put through a twisted yet socially accepted process of getting rid of unwanted teens. Curtis is a rebel whose unwinding was ordered by his parents. Rita, a ward of the state, has been slated for unwinding due to cost cutting. And Lev, his parents' 10th child, has been destined for unwinding since birth as a religious tithe. As their paths intersect, they start to fight for their own destinies. But do they stand a chance of escaping their fate or proving their lives are worth saving?

IV. *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

This modern classic tells the mystical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. His quest will lead him to riches far different – and far more satisfying – than he ever imagined. The story of the treasures Santiago finds along the way teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, above all, following our dreams.



SUMMER

READING

Assignment



For each book, you will record at least 20 significant quotes (see graphic organizer attached). Each entry should include a quote, the page number on which it is found, and a two-to-three sentence analysis of why the quote is significant. For example, the quote might capture a key moment within the plot, reveal the personality of a major character, or include well-crafted figurative language or important symbolism. Or the passage may inspire thought, draw an emotional connection, or have a personal connection to your own life. Whatever the reason, explain **WHY** the quote matters and/ or your reason for selecting it. Do not merely restate or summarize the quote.

The quotations should be kept in the order in which they appear in the book.

Be sure to include page numbers for all evidence that you collect. Your evidence should be thoughtful and thorough, as you will write an essay after completing your reading, using your recordings to help support your claims.

A Note to Parents: Want to read along with your student? Discussion questions designed to prompt conversation at: <https://shorturl.at/uFMZO>

Example:

Page	Direct Quote	Significance
58	"Better to be hurt by the truth than comforted with a lie"	In this quote, Baba comments about the jealousy many Afghanis feel when their country is not perceived as a world power. The passage reveals not only Baba's character as a realist but a universal truth: that those who allow themselves to be pacified by lies end up hurt and disillusioned.

From *The Kite Runner*, Khaled Hosseini

Name: _____ Period: _____

IMPORTANT QUOTES

As you read, record important quotations from the text – whether they capture key plot, character or theme developments; include well-crafted language or important symbolism; or draw an emotional or personal connection to your own life. Explain the **significance** of each quote in 2–3 sentences. DO NOT MERELY RESTATE THE QUOTE.

Page	Direct Quote	Significance

