

Isle of Wight Academy

2026 Required Summer Reading Novel List

11th 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.

Please note: Works read in this class may involve challenging topics, situations, or subject matter.

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

1. ***The Hate U Give*** by Angie Thomas

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor black neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend, Khalil, at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.

Soon afterward, Khalil's death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Starr's best friend at school suggests he may have had it coming. When it becomes clear that police have little interest in investigating the incident, protests take to the streets and Starr's neighborhood becomes a war zone. What everyone wants to know is: What really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does - or does not - say could destroy her community. It could also endanger her life.

2. ***Tuesdays With Morrie*** by Mitch Albarn

Maybe it was a grandparent, or a teacher or a colleague. Someone older, patient and wise, who understood you when you were young and searching, and gave you sound advice to help you make your way through it. For Mitch Albarn, that person was Morrie Schwartz, his college professor from nearly twenty years ago.

Maybe, like Mitch, you lost track of this mentor as you made your way, and the insights faded. Wouldn't you like to see that person again, ask the bigger questions that still haunt you?

Mitch Albarn had that second chance. He rediscovered Morrie in the last months of the older man's life. Knowing he was dying of ALS - or motor neurone disease - Mitch visited Morrie in his study every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college. Their rekindled relationship turned into one final 'class': lessons in how to live.

3. ***The Secret Life of Bees*** by Sue Monk Kidd

Set in South Carolina in 1964, *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When

Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina--a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters, Lily is introduced to their mesmerizing world of bees and honey, and the Black Madonna. This is a remarkable novel about divine female power, a story women will share and pass on to their daughters for years to come.

ASSIGNMENT:

1. **See the Reader's Guide to Annotation posted with Summer Reading lists on the school website.**
2. Read and annotate the book. **IT'S ONLY WRONG IF YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING!**
3. Using the attached instructions, complete a one-pager. Be sure to include all elements and requirements.

The assignment is due on the first day of class.

One-Pager Instructions

Explanation: A one-pager is a single-page visual and symbolic response to a literary work. It is a way to be creative and experimental. It is a way to be imaginative. It is a way to be brief and bold. Purpose: A one-pager allows you to connect the book's thoughts to your thoughts, to connect words and images, and to connect the verbal and the visual. It is a personal interpretation and should be original, meaningful, and deliberate.

Medium: Use an unlined 8.5 X 11 piece of paper.

Elements:

- 1) The **title** of the novel written and represented in a symbolic way. Include the **author's name** in smaller font below or next to the title.
- 2) Somewhere in the vicinity of the title, write an **essential question** (universal significance, profound, relevant) for your book that is related to one of its main motifs or recurring ideas. For example, "In the face of adversity, why do some succeed while others fail?"
- 3) A border that represents a **universal theme** for your book. Somewhere within or next to the border, list the theme in the form of a statement You'll want to first think of a thematic topic from the book (ex: courage), and then generate a **statement** about it, such as "Courage allows us to overcome the fear of failure and attempt the impossible."
- 4) An **image** in the upper left-hand corner with a **quotation** woven into or around it. This image should somehow represent what you consider to be the most important **symbol** from the text.
- 5) Images and/ or doodled words in the upper right-hand corner that represent a key **character(s)** from the text, and perhaps how they changed or evolved.
- 6) Images and quotations in the lower left-hand corner that show the author's **style of writing** and their **command of language**.
- 7) Images and/or words in the bottom right-hand corner that show **connections between the themes and ideas in the writing and something from our world** (life, literature, art, culture, history, politics, etc).
- 8) Words and/or pages that show the significance of the **setting** in some way.

Considerations: Go beyond the obvious. Be creative, symbolic, and profound. Avoid common or cliché symbols. You can use the author's symbols, but you should also use your own. Base some of your images and symbolic words on your theme and essential question. Think about symbols and images that represent the themes and motifs, not ones that are just literally in the book.

Cautions: Don't summarize the book. Don't give a plot summary. Don't merely draw a character or scene from the book. Don't just use images that are in the book itself. Push yourself to think about and generate new, unique symbols and images representative of your book's ideas.

Aesthetics: Use all of the page. Use the space wisely and meaningfully. Write in creative fonts. Use a variety of colors. Go beyond stick figures: Paint, sketch, use a computer, cut from magazines, utilize mixed media ... the choice is yours.

Due on the first day of school.

Scoring Criteria: Your one-pager will count as 25-point assessment grade, and will be scored according to the following criteria: 5 = Completely meets expectation 4 = mostly meets expectation 3= approaching expectation 2 = partial evidence of expectation 1 = minimal evidence 0 = no evidence	-Quality of thematic statement & essential question (5) -Evidence of creative, symbolic thinking (5) -Depiction of key characters and setting (5) -Incorporation of key words and quotes and world connections to (5) -Overall aesthetics/neatness/usage of entire page
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