

English Department Summer Work

Freshmen:

Freshmen English I-A:

June 2025

To: The Parents and Students of the Class of 2029:

Re: Summer Reading

Welcome aboard! We know you are ready to hit the ground running toward academic excellence here at Saints. Your first opportunity to shine in your English classes will be the discussion and testing on the summer reading books. The list below is for student in: **English I-A.**

ENGLISH 1-A: Students enrolled in English 1-A will read *Uprising* by Margaret Peterson Haddix and *Animal Farm* by George Orwell.

- Students should practice “**active reading**” as they read. Students are instructed to use **post-it** notes to facilitate note taking in the following areas: the main characters, the importance of the setting, the conflicts, the rising action, the climax, and the falling action of the plot. Students should also include post-it notes on the appropriate pages about important symbols and the author’s thematic message.

We have checked on Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble (www.bn.com) and all books are readily available in paperback. They even have some used copies available. They are also available in local bookstores and libraries. Any use of *Cliff’s*, *Spark’s* or other “shortcuts” is forbidden and unnecessary since these books are well within the reading capabilities of incoming ninth graders.

Each student **must have** his own copy of each book with him in English class! Tests on these books will be given during the opening weeks of school in the fall.

Thank you very much, happy reading, and have great summer.

Mrs. Janene Palafox

Mr. Robert Duffy

Freshmen Honors English I:

Read On the Beach, by Nevil Shute.

Students should complete a simple timeline and an analysis of the main characters and their effect on the other characters. Students will be tested on this story during the first and second week of school.

Sophomores:

English II—Summer Reading Study Guide

Welcome back to St. Augustine High School! It's exciting to welcome you into English II!!

The Sunflower Summer Reading:

Wiesenthal asks, "Was my silence at the bedside of the dying Nazi right or wrong? Did I even have the right to forgive? What moral obligation do we have to remember? What should I have done?"

To better understand the nature of forgiveness, you will develop your own arguments about forgiveness and redemption by answering Simon's question.

What would you have done?

The following assignment, we will cover the first 2 weeks of school and further instructions will be given. For summer, you only need to read the text.

TASKS:

1) Symposium

Write a 2-3 paragraph response to Simon's overall questions from *The Sunflower*. What do you think? What would you have done?

- Your personal response needs to include an establishment of your own ethos, pathos, logos. This means you need to explain:
 - Why we should trust your perspective. Where does your understanding of forgiveness come from?
 - What emotions do you have about Simon and Karl's experience? Or your own experience of forgiveness?
 - What evidence from Simon's reflection (the book), sways your emotions and opinion? What information from your research impacts your response?
- You also need to respond to one or more of the authors you have chosen to read from the second part of the book. Here, you need to choose a piece of evidence from the symposiums that impacted you the most, whether you disagree with the author's perspective or not.
- Quotes! You must have 2 quotes from Simon's portion of the novel, 1 from a symposium author response, and 1 from your personal research.

2) Annotated Bibliography

This will require 3 sources: the book, your 1 author choices, and one outside source of research. You may include more if you find information that impacts your response.

*An explication of the Annotated Bibliography will follow.

3) Socratic Seminar

The entire class will participate in a Socratic Seminar. In that time, you must present your perspective and why you feel the way you do. Please see the rubric for more specific details.

- Your participation must include in addition to your perspective your reaction to the authors you chose (all 3) and whether you agree or disagree with them and why.
- This is a discussion; this is not an oral report does not come with a prepared speech. You may have your paper, your annotated bibliography, your book, and any notes you wish to include.
- This portion of the assignment is peer and teacher graded.

Honors English II: no summer work

Juniors:

English III-A:

Read Invisible Man, by Ralph Ellison.

Students should complete a simple timeline and an analysis of the main character and his effect on the other characters. Students will be tested on this story during the first and second week of school.

AP Language & Composition: no summer work

Seniors:

English IV: no summer work

AP Literature and Composition:

Dear Student,

I am excited you have chosen to take AP English Literature. Although you will be pushed to your limits, I assure you, we will have a year that you will not soon forget. We have a wide world of literature, poetry, and music to explore. You have a high standard to live up to, but I have no doubt you will exceed my expectations. In order to make sure you are in 'working condition,' there will be a couple of summer assignments that are to be completed by the 2nd day of school. I encourage you to not wait until the last week of summer to get started. Please remind fellow classmates that are prone to 'lose' these types of messages about the assignment. It is imperative that you start the year off on the right foot.

Most of the first semester will be spent applying to colleges. To give you a head start on the process, formulate a response to 4 of the 8 UC questions on the back of this sheet (350 max per response): In addition, pick one of the Common App topics (on the back) and write a comprehensive response (250 word minimum).

Be sure that the responses are typed and saved for future editing.

Note: I highly recommend taking the College Workshop

With the summer finally upon us, be sure to get out and enjoy the next couple months of 'freedom' before embarking on your last year as a high school student. Even though I will be prepping for the upcoming school year, I have quite a few waves to catch myself.

Best,

John T. Lamerato

1. Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.
 2. Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.
 3. What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?
 4. Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.
 5. Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?
 6. Describe your favorite academic subject and explain how it has influenced you.
 7. What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?
 8. What is the one thing that you think sets you apart from other candidates applying to the University of California?
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Common App -- The essay demonstrates your ability to write clearly and concisely on a selected topic and helps you distinguish yourself in your own voice. *What do you want the readers of your application to know about you apart from courses, grades, and test scores?* Choose the option that best helps you answer that question and write an essay of no more than 650 words, using the prompt to inspire and structure your response. Remember: 650 words is your limit, not your goal. Use the full range if you need it, but don't feel obligated to do so. (The application won't accept a response shorter than 250 words.)

2025-2026 Common Application Essay Prompts

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from *obstacles we encounter* can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a *challenge, setback, or failure*. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you *questioned* or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your *thinking*? What *was the outcome*?
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?

5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or *realization* that *sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others*.

6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?

7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.