

# HONORS ENGLISH 9 Summer Reading

## Why Summer Reading?

Reading is a fundamental life skill, and it can also be a pleasurable and rewarding activity. The LCA English Department cares greatly about fostering in our students the enjoyment of quality literature as well as helping them achieve academic gains across all disciplines. Studies show that people who read more become stronger readers and writers and have better vocabulary and spelling skills. Independent reading outside the classroom is just as important as guided reading inside the classroom in developing these skills. Our goal is for all students to take ownership of their reading and know the pleasure of independence.

## REQUIRED Reading and Written Book Review: *The Hobbit*

You should finish reading *The Hobbit* BEFORE the first day of classes. The written book review should also be completed BEFORE the first day of classes.

1. Read *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien.
2. When you have finished reading *The Hobbit*, create a written book review for *The Hobbit* according to the instructions later in the packet.
3. Be ready for a reading quiz during the first week of classes.

## REQUIRED Reading and Video Book Review: Independent Reading Selection

You should finish reading your independent reading book BEFORE the first day of classes. The Flipgrid recording should also be completed BEFORE the first day of classes.

1. Read one additional book of your choice from the Independent Reading list (*included*).
2. When you have finished reading your book of choice, create a Flipgrid book review for your independent reading book according to the instructions later in the packet. Use the following link to record your book review:

<https://flipgrid.com/23a24fc4>

# ***The Hobbit* Written Book Review Instructions (Project 1)**

**Directions:** To demonstrate completion of the first part of the summer reading assignment, you will create a **written book review** for *The Hobbit* (*not your independent reading selection!*) Exploring some online book reviews for examples of style and content is strongly recommended.

**Overall Expectations:**          2-3 pages          double-spaced          MLA formatting

## **Paragraph 1: Introduction**

- ✓ A catchy lead-in statement
- ✓ Title, author, type of book, or other information that gives reader perspective
- ✓ A thesis statement dealing with purpose or meaning of the work – *What do you think the author is trying to accomplish, and how will you prove it?*

## **Paragraph 2: Commentary on Content**

- ✓ Include **brief** information about the plot of the book – *emphasis on brief!*
- ✓ Include **brief** information about two or three of the main characters and why they are important to the story or to the plot.

## **Paragraph 3: Reader Reaction**

- ✓ Personally respond to the author’s purpose... themes... symbolism... or anything else you deem worthy of discussion.
- ✓ What important issues does Tolkien want us to consider about faith and life?

## **Paragraph 4: Conclusion**

- ✓ A direct comment or opinion about the book
- ✓ A recommendation to read or not read... and *why?*

HINT: “Because I thought it was boring” or “Because I thought it was interesting” are *terrible* reasons to recommend a book to someone! **Why should someone else bother reading the book? Give them a *compelling* reason!**

**What I’ll be looking for as I evaluate your written book review:**

**Strong Ideas** – Did you actually answer the questions?

**Excellent Organization** – Did you follow the outline? And did you use transitions between paragraphs?

**Fluent Sentences** – Did your sentences have a natural, easy “flow” to them?

**Effective Word Choice** – Are your words too simple? too complex? or just right?

**Bold Voice** – Did your review sound like you had something important to say?

**Honors-level Conventions** – Did you proofread your work carefully (punctuation, spelling, grammar, etc.)

**Strong Presentation** – Does your *book review* actually look like and sound like a *book review*?

## ***Independent Reading Video Book Review Instructions (Project 2)***

<https://flipgrid.com/23a24fc4>

**Directions:** To demonstrate completion of the second part of the summer reading assignment, you will create a Flipgrid video book review for your **independent reading selection**. Your book review should be a minimum of 2 minutes, 30 seconds (2:30) and no more than 3 minutes (3:00) Flipgrid will cut you off at the 3-minute mark, so plan carefully! Here is a script you can use to guide your review:

### **1st Minute: Introduce Yourself and the Book**

- ✓ Hey, Mr. Nelson! My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and this is a Flipgrid book review for \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ My three-sentence summary of the book is \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ My absolute favorite part of the book was \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ My favorite character was \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ I was really surprised when \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ I was a little confused about (or when) \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ Five new words I learned were \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ Something I noticed about the author's writing style was \_\_\_\_\_.

### **2nd Minute: Voice Acting!**

- ✓ Now, I'm going to read a little of the book to you...

*Here, select a part of the book that was really memorable for you... And then read it—DRAMATICALLY! Pretend you are creating an audiobook and voice-act your selection. Don't bore me to tears... but don't overdo it either. It's all about "just right!" And remember: You only have 60 seconds to do it!*

### **3rd Minute: Your Recommendations**

- ✓ Other students might enjoy this book because \_\_\_\_\_ but they might struggle with \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ People of any age will enjoy this book because \_\_\_\_\_ but they might struggle with \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ I could personally relate most to the character(s) of \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ Something that happened in the book that reminded me of the Christian faith was \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ So, my ultimate conclusion is that I (do/do not) recommend this book because \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ Thanks for listening!

**Finally, please review your video to make sure that the sound levels are correct.** If you can't hear your book review, I won't be able to hear it either!

## English 9 Honors Independent Reading Choices

Author	Title
Mitch Albom	<i>Tuesdays with Morrie</i>
Louisa May Alcott	<i>Little Women</i>
Pearl S. Buck	<i>The Good Earth</i>
Agatha Christie	any novel
Robert Cormier	<i>I Am the Cheese</i>
Stephen Crane	<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i>
Daniel Defoe	<i>Robinson Crusoe</i>
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	<i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i> <i>A Sign of Four</i> any collection of Sherlock Holmes short stories
Ernest Hemingway	<i>The Old Man and the Sea</i>
James Herriot	<i>All Things Bright and Beautiful</i>
Karen Kingsbury	<i>One Tuesday Morning</i> <i>Even Now</i> <i>Thousand Tomorrows</i>
Rudyard Kipling	<i>Captains Courageous</i>
Jack London	<i>Call of the Wild</i>
Robert Louis Stevenson	<i>Kidnapped</i> <i>Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i> <i>Treasure Island</i> <i>The Black Arrow</i>
Jonathan Swift	<i>Gulliver's Travels</i>
J.R.R. Tolkien	<i>The Lord of the Rings Trilogy</i>
Jules Verne	<i>20,000 Leagues Under the Sea</i> <i>Journey to the Center of the Earth</i>

*continues >>*

You also have the option to choose a **collection** of short stories or poetry from the following authors. **NOTE:** These must be in a **bound collection**, not just random short stories or poems published individually.

**a COLLECTION of short stories by...**

Ambrose Bierce

Anton Chekhov

Nathaniel Hawthorne

Washington Irving

Flannery O'Connor

Mark Twain

Willa Cather

Guy de Maupassant

O. Henry

Shirley Jackson

Edgar Allan Poe

Eudora Welty

**a COLLECTION of poetry by...**

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Robert Burns

Emily Dickinson

Robert Frost

Langston Hughes

Amy Lowell

Carl Sandburg

Sara Teasdale

Walt Whitman

William Wordsworth

Robert Browning

e.e. cummings

T.S. Eliot

Oliver Wendell Holmes

John Keats

Edna St. Vincent Millay

William Shakespeare

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

John Greenleaf Whittier