



Holy Name High School Summer Reading 2023

Freshman Summer Reading List

Before the year starts, students taking **English I (110 or 115)** will read the following **one (1)** required work of literature. Students taking **Honors English I (111)** will be required to read **two (2)** works of literature.

Required Book-in-Common:

The Last Lecture - Randy Pausch

A lot of professors give talks titled "The Last Lecture." Professors are asked to consider their demise and to reflect on what matters most to them. And while they speak, audiences can't help but mull the same question: What wisdom would we give to the world if we knew it was our last chance? If we were to vanish tomorrow, what would we leave as our legacy?

Randy Pausch seemed to have it all: a loving wife, three children, and a successful teaching career. However, the one thing that he did not have was good health. At 46, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. His doctor gave him three to six months to live. When Randy, a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon, was asked to give such a lecture, he didn't have to imagine it as his last. But the lecture he gave--"Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams"--wasn't about dying. It was about overcoming obstacles, enabling the dreams of others, and seizing every moment (because "time is all you have...and you may find one day that you have less than you think"). It was everything Randy had come to believe. It was about living.

Additional Required Book for HONORS ENGLISH I:

A Step From Heaven - An Na

After flying from Korea to America, four-year-old Young Ju concludes that they are on their way to heaven - America is heaven! Once they arrive, however, Young Ju, her parents, and her little brother struggle in their new world, weighed down by the difficulty of learning English, their insular family life, and the traditions of the country they left behind. Author An Na authentically reflects the process of acculturation following Young's life from the age of four all the way until she is ready for college, as we watch her change from a hopeful girl into a hardened young adult.