



English Department Summer Reading

The primary purpose of Holy Name High School's summer reading program is to lead students to an appreciation of good literature and let them discover that reading is enjoyable. Other benefits include a development of reading comprehension skills, a building of vocabulary, a better understanding of interactions between people, and a broadening of knowledge about various cultures represented in the books read.

During the first two weeks of the new school year, English teachers will give objective tests on all of the assigned books. Following class discussion on the books, students will also be assigned an essay.

We require that you take notes on your summer reading books so that you will remember what you have read. These notes will help lead class discussions during the first two weeks of school. **English teachers will check your notes for completion.** The format of your notes is up to you. You are welcome to take notes in a notebook or on the computer. However, you could also use post-it notes to annotate the text. This means you would use a post-it to flag passages of the text that are significant, powerful, etc. On each post-it you would then explain why you marked that passage. The content for your note taking is up to you, but we offer these suggestions:

1. Write down each character's name as he or she is introduced and describe each one. As you read, indicate the importance of each character in the book.
2. Summarize what happens in the book. What are the important conflicts?
3. Put down a few statements or ideas from the books that are especially noteworthy or meaningful.
4. Is the ending of the book satisfactory? Was the main character successful in overcoming a difficulty? Why or why not? How much do you sympathize with him or her?
5. To what extent do you think that the book is worthwhile? Did it help you gain some insight or come to a greater understanding in any way?