

Catholic Central

Honors English 1 Summer Reading Assignment, 2026

Welcome to Catholic Central and Honors English 1! I am excited to meet you in August. You are in Honors English (I hope) because you love reading and thinking, and you are eager to do it at a higher level.* Our year together will be an opportunity to study some of the great classics, improve your writing skills, and learn how to talk and think about literature in a more sophisticated, intellectual way. Our goal will be to go beyond reading for understanding – we will seek to uncover deeper meaning and become analytical thinkers. To prepare, you have 2 summer reading assignments to complete. The full details are below (please read them carefully). You should have this ready by the first week of school so we can dive right in.

If you have questions or concerns, please reach out: aurakozminski@grcatholiccentral.org
Happy reading!
~Mrs. Kozminski

**If you are not really interested in reading and writing at a higher level, and are, perhaps, realizing that Honors English isn't for you, you should talk about this with your parents. At-level English 1 is a wonderful class (also taught by me), and you will not lose any face transferring before the school year begins. That class still has a summer reading assignment, but it is significantly shorter. You can contact CC's counseling team to help with this change. Participation in Honors English really requires an enthusiasm for the subject and an eagerness to do the work.*

Assignment #1: *The Illustrated Man* by Ray Bradbury

Ray Bradbury (1920-2012) is a well-known American, science fiction writer. This collection of short stories contains some of his lesser known tales, all focused on the issue of technology. Written in 1951, each chapter is its own story, containing unique characters, setting and circumstances (so you can pick it up and put it down throughout the summer without too much stress of remembering long-running plot).

You will need your own copy of this book. It is [\\$9.99 on Amazon](#), but also available at local bookstores – you may even be able to find a less expensive used copy!

Directions:

- The Prologue and Epilogue of this collection are pretty important, so don't skip those!
- Read the stories in this collection ("The Exiles" and "No Particular Night or Morning" are optional).
- You may find some of the stories confusing or hard to understand. These are science fiction stories, so they are meant to be fantastical and weird (and wonderful)! *Don't give up!* Re-read when you need to and use annotations to help you think things through, or find a buddy and talk about it. "I didn't get it," won't be an acceptable response in August.
- **Take notes as you read! You'll need to know the details of these stories at the start of the school year. You can write in your copy of the book, use post-its, OR a separate piece of paper.**
- When you come in August, you will show me these notes for points.

Assignment #2: Independent Reading Book Challenge

Reading has been proven to reduce stress, increase your vocabulary, improve your memory, and strengthen your analytical thinking skills, in addition to many other benefits. I try to read consistently, habitually every day, and I hope this assignment will encourage you to do the same.

The Requirement: Read 1 book of your choosing (in addition to *The Illustrated Man*) before the start of school.

ONE RULE:

Your book *MUST* be a book written for adults (not for children, or YA young adult).

Complete the attached sheet for the book that you read. If you read more than one, please keep a list of titles and authors. I'd love to know what else you read during break.

Among other shorter texts (poems, articles, and short stories), we will read the following longer texts during the year. ***Please do not choose any these for your summer reading:***

- *The Odyssey* by Homer
- *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare
- *The Pearl* and *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
- *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me: lurakozminski@grcatholiccentral.org

[Please scroll to the next page in this document to access the book challenge response sheet]

Book Challenge Personal Response

Book title:

Author:

Genre:

Number of pages: _____

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Did you like the book? Why or why not? Would you recommend it to other people? What types of people might like this book?

2. What struggles did you encounter as you read? (Was there anything you found difficult? Were there vocabulary words or concepts you didn't understand?)

3. Choose an idea that the book presents and respond personally to that idea on the back of this paper or on a separate sheet. (For example, maybe the book is a coming of age story about a kid who's pressured to do something they don't want to do. You could write about a time that something similar happened to you, showing how you can relate to the character). **Write at least 1 page.**

Parent Signature:
