

## Honors English 11 Summer Reading 2026

You will read BOTH *Kindred* by Octavia Butler and *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* by Frederick Douglass and complete the following three tasks.

Read *Kindred* by Octavia Butler and complete tasks #1 and #2 outlined below.

**Task #1** - As you read, you will keep a hand-written reader response journal to answer the questions below. No digital files will be accepted (unless you have documented learning accommodations). You must include quotes from the novel with page numbers to support each of your responses. When you use a quote, follow the says, means, matters formula. What does the quote say, what does it mean in the context of your argument, and why does it matter to the point you are trying to make? Answer each question thoughtfully that demonstrates you are truly thinking about the text as well as proving that you read the text. No response should be shorter than 7 sentences.

### **Journal Entry #1 to be completed after reading “Prologue” and “The River”:**

Using textual evidence, predict what you believe the conflicts of the novel will be, how will the relationship between Dana and Rufus grow, and what the book will ultimately be about.

### **Journal Entry #2 to be completed after reading “The Fire”:**

How does how Dana saves Rufus in this chapter reflect how she saved Rufus in “The River”? Discuss the power dynamic between Rufus and Dana. Consider their age, gender, race, education, and experiences. Use textual evidence to support your response.

### **Journal Entry #3 to be completed after reading “The Fall”:**

Why is time travel happening? What kind of influence can Dana have during these sporadic visits? How does the time travel affect Dana and Kevin? Use evidence from the text to support your answers.

### **Journal Entry #4 to be completed after reading “The Fight”:**

Pick one character and trace their choices from the first time you met them in the novel until the end of this chapter. Describe whether they are in an upward or downward spiral. How has time travel played a role in their character development? Be sure to use evidence from the text to support your response.

### **Journal Entry #5 to be completed after reading “The Storm”:**

How have your feelings for Rufus changed since the beginning of the novel? Who do you sympathize with and why? What are your feelings about Dana continually helping Rufus even though she disagrees with his actions? Use quotes from the text to support your answer.

### **Journal Entry #6 to be completed after reading “The Rope” and “Epilogue”:**

Science Fiction bends reality and places the reader in an unfamiliar setting and/or situation. Historical Fiction transports the reader to a past event and allows the reader to experience it. Octavia Butler combined these two genres in her novel, *Kindred*. How does the addition of time travel make the story more powerful for a modern reader? Use evidence from the novel to support your response.

**Task #2** – Create a scrapbook for one of the main characters of the novel. You may choose Dana, Rufus, Kevin, Alice, or Mr. and Mrs. Weyland as a couple. Your scrapbook must be a physical book, no electronic versions, of at least 10 pages not including the title page. The scrapbook must show events, conflicts, symbols, themes, and/or character interactions that demonstrate your character’s growth from the beginning to the end of the novel.

Requirements:

1. Pages must be at least 8”x11” and no larger than 12”x12”.
2. There must be at least 3 pictures on each page. These pictures may be hand drawn, printed, or from a magazine/newspaper.
3. Each picture must have a caption of at least 2 sentences explaining its importance to topic of the page
4. Each page must have a title to represent what is on the page (character, conflict, event, etc) and a year to demonstrate approximately when it happened in the novel.
5. Each page must include a quote that represents why the topic of the page is important to the character’s growth. It can establish the personality of the character at the beginning of the novel or show a change in character. You must incorporate says, means, matters when you use the quote.
6. Pages must be bound together. They can be stapled along the left side or tied with ribbon.

Complete Task #3 after reading *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* by Frederick Douglass.

**Task #3** – Douglass’s narrative is a non-fiction telling of the events of his enslavement and path to freedom. It is also set in Antebellum Maryland.

Write a 2-3 page comparative essay that discusses the depiction of slavery in both *Kindred* and *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. Consider one of three themes: education, power/control, or dehumanization. How is one of these themes demonstrated in each novel. Be sure to use at least 3 examples.