

ECA SUMMER READING FOR 2016

All students entering grades 9 and 10 at Early College Academy are required to read two mandatory novels during the summer months. Students must complete the accompanying assignment on each novel and turn it in on the first day they return to school (in English class). They will be tested on both novels within the first two weeks of their English classes. *Note: Students enrolled in English during the Spring semester will turn in journals on the first day of school in the Spring.*

Entering 9th Grade

A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest Gaines

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Entering 10th Grade

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Remarque

All students enrolled in **Law I & II** are required to read the following novel during the summer months. Students must be prepared to use their knowledge of the novel in the class during the first semester of school.

Law I & II Students

Our Declaration: A Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality

by Danielle Allen

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

English I & II students must read both required novels and create a journal with their reactions to what they read.

Journal Requirements:

These may be written in a bound journal **or** typed *and* bound. The journal assignments will be due on the first week of school and graded. Thorough, thoughtful, and reflective responses to the following prompts are to be provided in the journal. Neatly written or typed work is expected. In order to earn the highest grade, students should complete all of the following requirements carefully and completely.

1. Identify the book's title, author's name, copyright date, and number of pages. Underline or italicize the title.
2. In 200 words, write a brief summary of the plot, including the beginning, the middle, and the end.
3. Explain the significance of the title. Authors rarely choose a title randomly. Dig for symbolic meaning. The title may be a metaphor, or it may represent some specific incident in the book. In any case, consider carefully the significance of the title and explain your thinking.
4. Make a list of the main characters and list five adjectives to describe each one. Describe your first impressions of the protagonist. Describe your first impressions of the antagonist. Cite at least three text examples that support your response for each character.
5. Cite (quote word for word using quotation marks) and note the page number of a special passage from the book that you think is important or worth reading. (Maybe it explains something about the character, or perhaps it describes a very special event or holds a certain resonance or connection with you.) You must *explain* why you chose this passage. Dig deep for a connection here.
6. To highlight the significance of this book, write a 5- to 8-sentences response to each of the following:
 - a. What life lessons have you learned (or have been reinforced) from reading this book?
 - b. What did you like and dislike the most about this book? Explain using details and examples from the book.