

# Grade 9 HCHS English Summer Reading

## English I: Optional Summer Reading

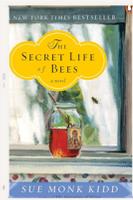
Students who will be enrolled in English I may read a novel of their choice appropriate to their interest and reading level. Students will have the option to complete an enrichment project over their summer reading.

## Advanced English I: Required Summer Reading

Students entering Advanced English I are required to read ONE of the books below in preparation for the course. Each image below represents a narrative focusing on a character whose experiences lead to maturity and/ or understanding the world in a new way. Not every book is right for every student, so please click on each image to read a description and find the book that is best suited to your tastes, interests, and values. Feel free to do further research on the book to confirm your choice is the best one for you.



*Turtles All the Way Down* by John Green



*The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd



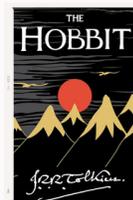
*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak



*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee



*Mexican WhiteBoy* by Matt de la Peña



*The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien



*Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline



*There's Something about Sweetie* by Sandhya Menon

The value of selecting a book from a fairly short list of titles is that once we meet together, your understanding may be deepened through group discussions and activities with others who have read the same novel. For that reason, we strongly encourage you to select from THESE books; however, if you're interested in a novel OTHER than one of these for your summer reading (a work of fiction that is appropriately complex in portraying a main character's coming of age), you may select that instead. We also encourage parents who may have concerns about sensitive material to monitor students' choices.

As you read, (1) consider the development of the main character and how their experiences help them understand the world and/or themselves in a new way; and (2) annotate, noting any passages you find interesting, significant, or memorable--for any reason at all. (Your annotations will not be graded, but they will help you as you begin to work with the book in class. [Here is a document to help you keep track of things.](#) It's only accessible by NISD email addresses.)

Please finish your book PRIOR to the first day of school so that you won't miss out on learning opportunities as school begins. We will be studying summer reading books during the first few weeks of school, and although you may have a chance to catch up on reading once school begins, you will also be juggling new classes at a new school, so it might be difficult to make time.

We hope you enjoy your book. Happy reading!

If you have any questions about summer reading, please email Kara Epstein at [kara.epstein@nisd.net](mailto:kara.epstein@nisd.net)