

2021 Suggested Summer Reading Honors 12

In the 2021-2022 school year, students in Honors 12 will begin utilizing McGraw-Hill's StudySync curriculum incorporating excerpts and full texts while exploring a variety of themes.

(Special Note: AP Language and Composition will continue to use the College Board-approved curriculum, not StudySync.)

During the summer months, all Honors students are encouraged to select a book from the attached list in preparation for English class. Please note that summer reading is NOT required; however, reading one of these texts and examining the author's style, use of language, and purpose for writing will give you invaluable practice at text analysis.

***The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka**

"As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams he found himself transformed in his bed into a gigantic insect. He was laying on his hard, as it were armor-plated, back and when he lifted his head a little he could see his domelike brown belly divided into stiff arched segments on top of which the bed quilt could hardly keep in position and was about to slide off completely. His numerous legs, which were pitifully thin compared to the rest of his bulk, waved helplessly before his eyes.' With its startling, bizarre, yet surprisingly funny first opening, Kafka begins his masterpiece, *The Metamorphosis*. It is the story of a young man who, transformed overnight into a giant beetle-like insect, becomes an object of disgrace to his family, an outsider in his own home, a quintessentially alienated man. A harrowing—though absurdly comic—meditation on human feelings of inadequacy, guilt, and isolation, *The Metamorphosis* has taken its place as one of the most widely read and influential works of twentieth-century fiction." (Goodreads.com)

***Hamlet* by William Shakespeare**

"*Hamlet* is Shakespeare's most popular, and most puzzling, play. It follows the form of a 'revenge tragedy,' in which the hero, Hamlet, seeks vengeance

against his father's murderer, his uncle Claudius, now the king of Denmark. Much of its fascination, however, lies in its uncertainties.

Among them: What is the Ghost—Hamlet's father demanding justice, a tempting demon, an angelic messenger? Does Hamlet go mad, or merely pretend to? Once he is sure that Claudius is a murderer, why does he not act? Was his mother, Gertrude, unfaithful to her husband or complicit in his murder?" (barnesandnoble.com)

Beowulf

"*Beowulf* is a major epic of Anglo-Saxon literature, probably composed between the first half of the seventh century and the end of the first millennium. The poem was inspired by Germanic and Anglo-Saxon oral tradition recounting the exploits of Beowulf, the hero who gave his name to the poem." (Goodreads.com)

***Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky**

"In one of the most gripping crime stories of all time, Raskolnikov soon realizes the folly of his abstractions. Haunted by vivid hallucinations and the torments of his conscience, he seeks relief from his terror and moral isolation—first from Sonia, the pious streetwalker who urges him to confess, then in a tense game of cat and mouse with Porfiry, the brilliant magistrate assigned to the murder investigation. A *tour de force* of suspense, *Crime and Punishment* delineates the theories and motivations that underlie a bankrupt morality." (barnesandnoble.com)