

Rising Tenth Grade Summer 2026 Reading List

This summer I am changing the required reading from what we have done in the past. We will still read *Frankenstein*, but it will come later in the year. The books you will read this summer are more accessible, so I am asking you to READ them, as opposed to listening to them. There are several reasons for this, but for now, I want you to enjoy the story, take it with you on vacation, and read when you are not distracted. My goal is for you to become immersed in the story rather than the assignment. There are movie versions of these stories, but I am asking you not to watch those either as there are many things that are altered in the story. These are mysteries, so have fun with them.

Required Reading

Read and annotate *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie (ISBN: 0062073486). This mystery hardly feels new anymore since its concept has been used in so many other mediums. You likely will feel you have read this before. Ten people are invited to an island by a mysterious person whom they all remember as a distant acquaintance. One by one, as people reveal their inner thoughts of past sins, they are found murdered.

The British mystery genre is one that has grown to be loved across the world across many generations. We will discuss this type of writing along with some of the truths and big questions in this novel.

Read and annotate *A Study in Scarlet* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (ISBN: 0198856040). This book marks the very first appearance of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson. Set in late Victorian London, the novel introduces Holmes as a brilliant but eccentric consulting detective and Watson as his loyal companion and narrator. Their fateful meeting in Baker Street sparks one of literature's most enduring partnerships.

This book brings out the themes of love, jealousy, and vengeance, which we will discuss and contrast in comparison to the Agatha Christie novel.

Annotations. Both books follow a mystery that is a puzzle you are trying to solve. Both authors have written a work that they hope keeps you guessing and on the edge of your seat. I would like you to follow the logic of the "game."

Take a look at the "[How to Read a Book](#)" document. *Mark characters, take margin notes, highlight quotes that seem significant, keep track of the logical mystery unfolding. Answer these questions throughout your book:

- Who are the players? (mark every new character)
- What character flaws show up in their stories?
- What logical conclusions do you come to throughout the book?
- Try to solve the mystery at different points of the novels, and then look back on your accuracy. What conclusion was the author leading you to that made you think that at the time?
- What are the reactions of the characters to their "sins"?
- Do they show remorse or guilt?
- As in all books we will read this year, we are asking the question: "What does it mean to be human?"
- What makes us human and what turns us into monsters taking us away from humanity?

Assignment

- Purchase copies of your books, and annotate them. Annotations will be due to Mrs. Ryden on the first day of school.
- Keep track of your predictions throughout the novels on a separate sheet of paper. Follow the template given. It can be a Word doc, Google doc, Google sheet ... whatever works for you.

BOOK	CHAPTER	PREDICTION	EXPLANATION

Additional Suggested Works

- *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë
- *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë
- *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
- *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad
- *Animal Farm* by George Orwell
- *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare
- *The Odyssey* by Homer, translated by Emily Wilson (worthy of a second read—it is captivating)
- *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy
- *Between Heaven and Hell* by Peter Kreeft