**11th Grade ELA Summer Reading Assignment**

***Purpose:*** When I give out assignments students often ask me the question: “why do we have to do this?” This question makes me very happy. We are here for the *education* of students. It is their (your) education, and I want to give them (you) the reins to education at every available opportunity.

So, let’s answer the question “why do we do this?” Why a summer reading assignment?

Summer reading is a way for us to set the tone of the course. You’ll get a good idea of the kind of teacher I am from the books on this list. It’s also a chance for you to practice your reading skills on your own without help or assistance from a conveniently placed adult.

***Reading:*** Choose one book from the list below. Your choice should be a book that you have never read before.Read the book thoroughly from cover to cover. While you do, practice *annotating* as you read (mark the book with a pen, write notes in the margins, or put sticky notes on your favorite sections). If you are reading your book on Learning Ally then you will need to write a 500 word book report where you summarize three passages from the book that seemed especially important.

When you get back from the summer, I will check your book to see that you annotated, but DON’T annotate for me—do it for *you*. Practice “close reading.” Analyze the text like it is the Bible. Pan the words for hidden nuggets of beauty. Scour through the pages like a detective solving a murder case. Read like crazy.

**Book List**

Choose to read another book in the same series as one of my previous summer reading assignments (*Ender’s Game, The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy, Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter*)

Or read one of the following books:

[**No Time To Spare**](https://www.amazon.com/No-Time-Spare-Thinking-Matters-ebook/dp/B01MXXZYJ4/ref%3Dsr_1_1?crid=2GDE0GFWMY71J&keywords=No+time+to+spare&qid=1652207403&s=digital-text&sprefix=no+time+to+spare%2Cdigital-text%2C107&sr=1-1), *Ursula K. Le Guin.*

Description from Amazon: The collected best of Ursula’s blog, No Time to Spare presents perfectly crystallized dispatches on what mattered to her late in life, her concerns with the world, and her wonder at it: “How rich we are in knowledge, and in all that lies around us yet to learn. Billionaires, all of us.”

[**Consider the Lobster**](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0089YGT5E/ref%3Ddp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1), *David Foster Wallace.* Notice: *Consider the Lobster* (the book, not the essay) contains adult themes and occasional profanity.

Description from Amazon: Do lobsters feel pain? Did Franz Kafka have a sick sense of humour? What is John Updike's deal anyway? And who won the Adult Video News' Female Performer of the Year Award the same year Gwyneth Paltrow won her Oscar? David Foster Wallace answers these questions and more in his new book of hilarious non-fiction.

For this collection, David Foster Wallace immerses himself in the three-ring circus that is the presidential race in order to document one of the most vicious campaigns in recent history. Later he strolls from booth to booth at a lobster festival in Maine and risks life and limb to get to the bottom of the lobster question. Then he wheedles his way into an L.A. radio studio, armed with tubs of chicken, to get the behind-the-scenes view of a conservative talkshow featuring a host with an unnatural penchant for clothing that only looks good on the radio. In what is sure to be a much-talked-about exploration of distinctly modern subjects, one of the sharpest minds of our time delves into some of life's most delicious topics.

[**Nobody Knows My Name**](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B002RI9AA4/ref%3Ddp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1)**,** *James Baldwin.*

Description from Amazon: Baldwin's early essays have been described as 'an unequalled meditation on what it means to be black in America' . This rich and stimulating collection contains 'Fifth Avenue, Uptown: a Letter from Harlem', polemical pieces on the tragedies inflicted by racial segregation and a poignant account of his first journey to 'the Old Country' , the southern states. Yet equally compelling are his 'Notes for a Hypothetical Novel' and personal reflections on being American, on oother major artists - Ingmar Bergman and Andre Gide, Norman Mailer and Richard Wright - and on the first great conferance of Negro - American writers and artists in Paris.

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