

Sophomore World Literature Summer Reading 2024-2025

A warm welcome to Sophomore World Literature. In this course, we will explore a wide range of literary works from across the world. Our first assignment, due the second day of school, is to read a memoir and a novel. As you read, you will be completing a journal recording details and responses. This journal will count as the first major grade of the year. We will also dedicate our first two weeks of class to discussion of the novels and they will appear on the first exam.

Guidelines and Suggestions:

- Give yourself ample time to complete the readings and assignments. Do not wait until the last minute to try to complete this assignment.
- Map out a reading schedule in a planner, calendar, or other location that you can easily refer back to. When and where will you read? On the subway as you go to meet friends? At the beach when you're relaxing? On a flight? With your morning cup of coffee? Each night before bed? At the park on a beautiful day? No matter the time and place, deciding on a strategy will help you get through the texts.
- On your calendar count the days when you know you will have anywhere between 20-40 minutes to read and make sure that you give yourself time to make it through both texts.
- Calculate how many pages (or chapters) you will need to read per day. 10 to 50 pages is doable. More than that might be overly ambitious.
- Don't forget to include days that you will dedicate to writing your assignment. You may complete the assignment as you are reading the book or after you have finished it in its entirety.

Summer Reading Texts:

1. *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah
2. *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

As you read, be sure to annotate.

Annotation Guide: While reading the novels during the summer, students are highly encouraged to annotate (that is, to underline and make notes in the margins). What kinds of things could you annotate?

- words and phrases that stand out to you
- important scenes or key sections of dialogue
- character descriptions, motivations, and flaws
- key decisions characters make
- sections that are confusing for you
- questions that pop into your head as you are reading
- inferences you make while reading
- connections you make to other texts
- symbols, themes, topics
- literary devices (flashbacks, foreshadowing, sub-plots)
- figurative language (allusions, alliteration, metaphors, similes, etc.)

Writing Assignment: This assignment can be written by hand (preferred) or you can use Google Documents, Canva, etc. to keep a digital notebook (do not pay for any features, just use the free templates). If you choose to handwrite your work, keep one small, organized journal (no large five subject notebooks necessary) in which to record your responses. Be sure to clearly label each response. You should create a section of your journal for each prompt and clearly label which sections refer to each book.

- **Setting:** Look up the country WHERE and WHEN each book takes place. Write down five key facts about that country: things that will help you better understand the culture and setting of the novel.
- **Character Study:** Select three characters from each book. Trace their development throughout the novel and address the following questions: Who are they when we first meet them? Describe their appearance, their actions, and their thoughts. What challenges or conflicts do they face? How do they change and what is the cause? Be sure to indicate page numbers where these important details occur.
- **Quotations:** Record ten quotations from each text and indicate the meaning or significance of each. Why does this quote stand out to you? How is it important to the story?

Example:

Text Evidence:	Commentary:
<p>Narrator: "Beneath the beards, however – and this was the true discovery K. had made – badges of various sizes and colors shimmered on the collars of their jackets. They all had badges, as far as he could see. They were all one group, the apparent parties, on the left and right, and as he suddenly turned, he saw the same badges on the collar of the examining magistrate..." (52). Franz Kafka The Trial</p>	<p>This is just like a page out of Anthony Burgess' A Clockwork Orange or George Orwell's 1984. These men are merely players in a faction and symbolize unwarranted indifference. These men are not the judges of right from wrong but are rather the Inspector and his men, the cogs in a machine, the victims of Ludovico. They manipulate Herr K. into believing he is arguing for a side as the audience changes from his supporters to his enemies.</p>

- **Personal Reaction/Review OR write an alternative ending:**
 - Write a two to three paragraph personal reaction to each book. Consider questions such as: What have you learned from the character's experiences? Would you recommend this book to a friend? What surprised you about the novel? What did you enjoy? What did you dislike? Be sure to explain your reasoning and be specific.
 - **Or** you can pick to write an alternative ending to the books, which should be around three paragraphs long.

If you have any questions regarding the assignment, you can email me over the summer at popkin.e@stsaviour.org. Have a lovely summer, and I look forward to having you all in my class.

If you plan on buying the book instead of borrowing it from the library, shop locally:

- **Barnes & Noble bookstore** (on 7th Ave. & 6th Street)
- **Greenlight Bookstore** 686 Fulton St, Brooklyn, NY 11217
- **Troubled Sleep**, 129 6th Avenue, Brooklyn (used bookstore/cheaper)
- **The Community Bookstore**, 143 7th Avenue.
- **Books are Magic**, 225 Smith Street, Brooklyn
- **Unnameable Books** 615 Vanderbilt Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11238
- **The Strand Bookstore**, the corner of 12th Street and Broadway in Manhattan