

The summer reading assignments for all students are listed below by grade. Scroll down to find the appropriate assignment.

**DOWNINGTOWN HIGH SCHOOL  
SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT 2010  
for Students Entering Grade 9 Levels 1, 2, and Honors**

***Assignment: You are responsible for the required reading.  
You will receive the assignment for the work when you return in the fall.  
when you return to school in the fall.***

**Honors and Level 1:**

The Lightning Thief- Rick Riordan

Percy Jackson is about to be kicked out of boarding school...again. And lately, mythological monsters and the gods of Mount Olympus seem to be walking straight out of the pages of his mythology textbook. When Zeus' master lightning bolt is stolen, Percy and his friends have to find and return Zeus' stolen property and bring peace to a warring Mount Olympus.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian- Sherman Alexie

Arnold Spirit, a goofy teenager with a decent jump shot, spends his time lamenting life on the Spokane Indian reservation, drawing cartoons. When a teacher pleads with Arnold to draw more, Arnold switches to a rich white school and immediately becomes as much an outcast in his own community as he is a curiosity in his new one.

*\* Parental Warning: Language, limited sexual situations*

Eyes of the Emperor- Graham Salisbury

Eddy, a 16-year-old Japanese American, and his buddies, Chik and Cobra, become part of Company B of the 100th Infantry Battalion following the attack on Pearl Harbor. Based on historical fact, the story recounts one humiliation after another foisted on the troops.

Twisted- Laurie Halse Anderson

A rambunctious high school boy gets in trouble with the law and finds himself accused of a crime involving his cell phone and pictures on the Internet.

*\*Parental Warning: Language, sexual situations, and limited drug/ alcohol references*

Deadline- Chris Crutcher

After being diagnosed with cancer, an 18-year old elects to forgo treatment and keep his illness secret from his family and friends in an attempt to have a "normal" senior year.

*\*Parental Warning: Sexual situations*

The Hobbit- J.R.R. Tolkien

The prequel to the Lord of the Rings trilogy, a dwarf-like creature embarks on a journey filled with magical creatures and adventure.

**\*Honors must read one of the above choices AND an additional grade level appropriate novel of their own choosing.\***

**Level 2:** Any of the above OR

Born to Rock- Gordon Korman

A boy discovers that the man he calls "Dad" is not his real father, and that his real father is a famous singer.

The Christopher Killer: A Forensic Mystery- Alane Ferguson

When an aspiring forensic pathologist convinces her father, the county coroner, to hire her as his assistant, she has no idea that one of the first serial deaths she will investigate will be that of her friend.

The London Eye Mystery- Siobhan Down

Ted and Kat watched their cousin Salim get on board the London Eye, but after half an hour it landed and everyone but Salim trooped off. Ted and Kat follow a trail of clues across London in a desperate bid to find their cousin, while time ticks dangerously by.

**Downingtown High School  
Summer Reading Assignments 2010  
for students entering Grade 10**

***Assignment: You are responsible for the required reading.  
You will receive the assignment for the work  
when you return to school in the fall.***

**10<sup>th</sup> Level 1 – Requirement: Choose one work:**

The Barcode Tattoo – Suzanne Weyn  
The Book Thief – Markus Zusak  
The Glass Castle – Jeannette Walls\*  
Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet – Jamie Ford  
Into the Wild – Jon Krakauer  
Paper Towns - John Green\*  
Sarah's Key – Tatiana de Rosnay  
A Separate Peace – John Knowles  
Tithe – Holly Black\*

**10<sup>th</sup> Passages – Requirements: Choose one work:**

The Barcode Tattoo – Suzanne Weyn  
The Book Thief – [Markus](#) Zusak  
The Glass Castle – Jeannette Walls\*  
Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet – Jamie Ford  
Paper Towns - John Green\*  
Sarah's Key – Tatiana de Rosnay  
A Separate Peace – John Knowles  
Shiver – Maggie Stiefvater\*  
Tithe – Holly Black\*

**10<sup>th</sup> Level 2 – Requirement: Choose one work:**

The Glass Castle – Jeanette Walls\*  
Into The Wild – Jon Krakauer  
Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet – Jamie Ford  
Lightening Thief – Rick Rierdon  
Monster – Walter Dean Meyers  
Paper Towns - John Green\*  
Sarah's Key – Tatiana de Rosnay  
Slam – Walter Dean Myers  
Tithe –Holly Black\*  
V for Vendetta - Alan Moore\*

**10<sup>th</sup> Honors – Requirement: Choose two works from the list below in addition to one of your choice.**

The Book Thief – Markus Zusak

The Fellowship of the Ring **OR** the Two Towers – J.R.R. Tolkien

The Glass Castle – Jeannette Walls\*

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet – Jamie Ford

Into the Wild – Jon Krakauer

Paper Towns - John Green\*

Sarah's Key – Tatiana de Rosnay

A Separate Peace – John Knowles

Tithe – Holly Black \*

(It is strongly recommended that Honors students read A Tale of Two Cities in preparation for this difficult unit, which will be studied over the course of the school year.)

\* constitutes a parental advisory warning for language, sexual situations, drug references, or other adult content.

Downingtown High School  
Summer 2010 Reading Assignments  
for students entering Grade 11

***Assignment: You are responsible for the required reading.  
You will receive the assignment for the work  
when you return to school in the fall.***

**11<sup>th</sup> Honors – Requirement: Read two books:**

Old School – Tobias Wolff  
The Great Gatsby – F. Scott Fitzgerald

Note: The Fountainhead will be due in September. It is strongly recommended that you read it over the summer. This work is NOT part of the summer reading assignment. We recommend that you read this work before you read Old School.

**11<sup>th</sup> Peace and Conflict - Requirement: Choose one work from the list below:**

A Midnight Clear – William Wharton

Band of Brothers – Stephen Ambrose

**and  
view the film:**

Letters from Iwo Jima (film) – Clint Eastwood, director

**11<sup>th</sup> Level 1 – Requirement: Choose one work from the list below:**

A Midnight Clear – William Wharton

Cell – Stephen King

Salem Falls – Jodi Picoult

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest – Ken Kesey

**11<sup>th</sup> level 2 - Requirement: Read one book:**

Evolution, Me and Other Freaks of Nature – Robin Brande

Someday This Pain Will Be Useful To You – Peter Cameron

or

You may also choose any novel from the above options.

Downingtown High School  
Summer Reading Assignments  
for students entering Grade 12  
2010

***Assignment: You are responsible for the required reading.  
You will receive the assignment for the work  
when you return to school in the fall.***

**12<sup>th</sup> Honors – Requirement: Read three books:**

The Fellowship of the Rings or Two Towers - J.R.R Tolkien  
and  
Invisible Man - Ralph Ellison  
and

The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass - Frederick Douglass

**12<sup>th</sup> Multicultural Literature - Requirement: Choose one work from the list below:**

Kindred - Octavia E. Butler  
Persepolis - Marjane Satrapi  
The Skinwalkers – Tony Hillerman  
Thief of Time – Tony Hillerman

**12<sup>th</sup> Level 1 – Requirement: Choose one work from the list below:**

The Outliers – Malcolm Gladwell  
Blink – Malcolm Gladwell  
On the Road – Jack Kerouac  
Dracula – Bram Stoker  
One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest – Ken Kesey  
The Bell Jar – Sylvia Plath

**12<sup>th</sup> level 2 - Requirement: Read one book from the list below or view one of the films listed below:**

Paper Towns - John Green

V for Vendetta - Alan Moore

Maus I or II - Art Spiegelman

**Film:** Freedom Writers or The Great Debaters or Dead Poet's Society

## AP English Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignments 2010

The following books are available in libraries and bookstores; however, we strongly recommend you purchase these books if at all possible so that you can highlight passages and make marginal notes.

**Part I:** Read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines* by Thomas C. Foster. This practical and oftentimes amusing guide to literature is the perfect companion for making your reading experiences more enriching, satisfying, and fun. The author is a Professor of English at the University of Michigan, Flint, where he teaches classes in contemporary fiction, drama and poetry as well as creative writing and composition.

**Part II:** Read *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley and complete the two assignments on the back of this sheet. This novel resonates with philosophical and moral ramifications: themes of nurture versus nature, good versus evil, and ambition versus social responsibility dominate readers' attention and provoke thoughtful consideration of the most sensitive issues of our time and is often listed as a choice for the free response essay on the AP English Literature and Composition exam.

**Part III:** Read *The Awakening* (a story within *The Awakening and Selected Short Fiction* with an introduction and notes by Rachel Adams) by Kate Chopin. As evidenced by the many reprints of the book, modern critics appreciate Chopin's skill and artistry—particularly her use of psychological realism, symbolic imagery, and sensual themes. The feminist movement lauds Chopin's portrayal of Edna and the restraints tradition places on women. Prepare to discuss this short fiction piece extensively.

**Part IV:** Read *The Narrative of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave* by Frederick Douglass. This memoir is a prime example of literary non-fiction and an important part of the American literary canon. Prepare to discuss this memoir extensively.

## Observing Literature AP Summer Reading Assignments

Now that you have read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, you should put his ideas into practice. You will keep a journal of your observations for Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. We suggest you purchase a journal style notebook. Be sure the notebook is small enough to be a convenience; making observations should become a natural exercise when reading any type of literature.

We also suggest you make your observations during and immediately after you read regardless of your progress, as your ideas and thoughts may wane over time, and be sure to indicate which chapters or pages apply to your observations. They become a "mapping" of the work to which you will later refer. Your observations of the work need not be complete sentences and should include or at least consider those literary features identified in Foster's book.

- Structure and form
- Setting and time period
- Methods of Characterization
- Cultural and social context
- Figurative Language
  - Allusions (myths, biblical stories, literature, etc.)
  - Metaphors
  - Symbolism
  - Allegory (not symbolism)
  - Irony
- The role of food, water, sex, and sight
- The role of violence, illness and death
- The role of flight and the supernatural

Additionally, when you complete your reading and journal of *Frankenstein*, you will write a two to three page analytical reflection based on your personal conclusions drawn from your observations. In other words, what patterns of meaning do you recognize and how do they relate to the novel? This is an analytical reflection NOT a five-paragraph essay, but it should have a cohesive and cogent focus. Be sure to frequently integrate quoted words/phrases (as opposed to dropping in entire lines of text) and refer to specific examples; details always authenticate your ideas.