

Gloucester Catholic High School
Senior Summer Reading Requirements (2026)

Required summer reading books are part of the English program at Gloucester Catholic. As such, students will be discussing and writing about these books early in the school year in their English classes. In addition, they will be tested on them during the first few days of classes in September or have a project due on the first day of class. The combined scores of the tests/projects on the required books will be used as a major test grade in computing their first quarter grades. Summer reading books are carefully chosen to integrate well with the English curriculum, and they offer students high interest and challenging, yet reasonable, reading level.

Reading one or more extra credit books is highly encouraged, especially for college bound students. Students who choose to read extra credit books will be tested on a pass-fail basis and will receive extra credit toward their first quarter English grade.

Senior Summer Reading

- Required**
1. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor...* Thomas C. Foster
 2. *The Sunflower*..... Simon Wiesenthal
 3. The third book is your choice (see attached sheet for some suggestions)

Senior English Honors

- Required**
1. *The Sunflower*.....Simon Wiesenthal
 2. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*.....Thomas C. Foster
 3. The third book is your choice (see attached sheet for some suggestions)

Assignments:

1. All students are to read and annotate *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. This will help with the literary analysis part of this course as well as the research paper that is required to graduate.
2. All students are to read and annotate *The Sunflower* and write a five-paragraph essay answering the following prompt: Would you forgive the Nazi soldier? Make sure that you use correct MLA formatting, include an introduction, three body paragraphs with your rationale and your conclusion. This is worth one test grade.
3. As you read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, you will notice that the examples he uses are pieces of literature. Using these examples, choose one you would like to read and annotate your choice, and complete the Literary Analysis Worksheet that is attached. This literary work will be used to write your literary analysis research paper which we will begin in September. We will discuss each step throughout the first semester with the production of the paper during the second semester. Please purchase the book and make sure your notes are as detailed as possible.

Name _____
Title _____

Literary Analysis

I. Characterization: (Description of each)

A. Major Characters:

B. Minor Characters:

II. Plot: (Be as detailed as possible)

A. Primary:

B. Secondary:

III. Symbolism (at least two references from the text – use citations):

A.

B.

IV. Style of Writing:

V. Author's dominant philosophy:

VI. Quotations that are representative of the work include citations (at least four).

A.

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

VII. Theme(s):

VIII. SOAPSTone: Speaker, Occasion, Audience, Purpose, Subject, Tone)

Titles for extra credit books: You may choose one of these or any book of literary merit. If you are unsure email or chat me.

The Kite Runner

The Things They Carried

The Hate You Give

The Diary of Ann Frank

The Importance of Being Earnest

Animal Farm

MAUS

The Book Thief

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

A Christmas Carol

The Hobbit

The Lord of the Rings

Jane Eyre

Pride and Prejudice

The House on Mango Street

The Color Purple

The Turn of the Screw