

**Honors English I  
Norwalk High School  
2011 Summer Reading List**

To ensure a successful program next year, it is necessary that the freshman honors students have some course-related reading and writing assignments this summer. The following selections will complement the Freshman Honors curriculum.

**Required Reading - Carefully read 3 of the following 4 selections:**

1. **The Alchemist** by Paulo Coelho
2. **My Sister's Keeper** by Jodi Picoult
3. **The Help** by Kathryn Stockett
4. **Room** by Emma Donoghue

**Required Assignments- Students will complete the following assignments, which will be collected the first day of class.**

- I. **For each text, identify a theme and select three quotes that support that theme. Include page number in parenthesis for each quote.**
- II. **Choose one prompt for each of the three books you selected. Make sure to choose a different prompt for each book.**
  - What is your first reaction to this story? Write down any thoughts, opinions, or questions you may have.
  - Should this story be considered "good" literature? Make-up your own brief definition of what makes a piece of literature "good," and then explain how this story does or does not fit your definition. You may examine the style in which the author writes, the effective use of literary elements, realistic conflicts and/or characters, etc. Cite examples that support your points.
  - Choose one significant quote from the novel. Explain what you think the quotation means about the characters in the story. Be sure to cite your source when quoting.
  - What does this story say about people in general? In what ways does it remind you of people you have known or experiences you have had? You may write about stories you have read, or movies, or television programs you have seen, which relate to the text.

The responses should be **typed, double-spaced**, and no more than **2 pages** in length. In the top right-hand corner of the paper, type your name, Honors English I, Summer Reading Assessment, and the date submitted.

Your paper is **due** in class **on the first day of school**. If you are unprepared, it will be considered a clear indication of your lack of commitment to the Honors Program, and it will be necessary for you to elect another freshman English class at once.

Miss. Jessica Stamos  
Mr. Anthony Pagano

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**Please attach this tear-off to your writing assignment.**

**I have read the requirements of the summer reading assignment. During the summer months, I will read the required books and complete the required writing assignments. I understand that if I have not completed all of the assignments, I will elect another sophomore English class. My parent(s) and/or guardian(s) has/have read the summer reading assignment and support your requirements.**

**Parent:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_