English 10 Summer Assignment 2026

Your summer reading assignment is to read a novel from the list below and create a presentation.

Choose a novel from the list below. Buy your own copy and annotate it as you read, making notes in the margins. Pay particular attention to the work's structure, style, and themes, as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, and symbolism.

A Separate Peace by John Knowles

Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt

Between Shades of Gray or other titles by Ruta Sepetys

Christy by Catherine Marshall

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

Everything Sad is Untrue by Daniel Nayeri

Fire Keeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley

Jurassic Park by Michael Crichton

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis

My Antonia by Willa Cather

Prisoner B-3087 or other titles by Alan Gratz

Project Hail Mary by Andy Weil

Ready Player One by Ernest Cline

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Shaffer and Barrows

The Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom

The Lord of the Rings by J. R. R. Tolkien

The House of the Spirits by Isabel Allende

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

The Hunger Games or other titles by Suzanne Collins

The Martian Chronicles by Ray Bradbury

The Maze Runner by James Dashner

The Pearl by John Steinbeck

The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

Please note that because they deal with intense subject matter, many of the books may contain abuse, graphic content, harsh language, and disturbing imagery. Please choose a book that fits with your family's values.

Summer Reading Presentation Instructions: Complete the following assignment. Be prepared to present your work when school begins. After reading your novel, prepare a presentation (PowerPoint, Google Slides, etc.) according to the directions below. All quotations must include page numbers.

- Slide 1: Book Title, Author, and Your Name

• Slide 2: Relevant Biographical and Historical Information. Include the most compelling details. Birth and death dates should appear, but focus on what is most significant about the author's life that influenced him to write this work. Explain what bearing these facts might have on the novel. TIP: Don't necessarily record the first facts you find.

• Slide 3: Characters. Choose four characters to describe. Include words or phrases used by the author (at least two quotes with citations) to describe the characters. You should have two quotes for EACH character for a total of eight.

• Slide 4: Setting. Mention only the major setting (time and place). Quote the author's words to describe the setting (at least 2 quotes with citations). In describing settings, the author will sometimes give the reader a clear indication of his central ideas and the conflicts he is presenting. Your quotations need not be full sentences. Reflect on how the description of the setting does more than merely present time and place.

• Slide 5: Memorable Quotes. Choose at least three substantial quotes that could prompt interesting commentary on the work's meaning. These should be the passages you see as some of the most significant in the book. Put the quotations with citations on your slide. Do not include any commentary on the slide, but be prepared to verbally explain their significance during your presentation.

• Slide 6: Significance of Opening and Closing Scenes & the Relationship Between the Two. Think about these key parts of the work whose full meaning is not apparent until the reader is finished and has reflected on the entire work. It is insufficient to describe how the opening introduces us to the setting, characters, etc., or how the ending brings the work to a conclusion. Instead, look at the details and discuss why the writer chose those particular details for this work. These scenes provide the backbone of an author's structure and almost always bear a relationship to one another.