

# West Seneca West Senior High School

3330 Seneca St.

West Seneca, NY 14224

June 2026

Dear 12 Honors/AP English Students and Parents / Guardians,

Summer reading is part of West Senior's English curriculum. Reading books during the summer helps develop lifelong reading habits. Also, it assists students in preparing for the Advanced Placement Exam and college courses.

Listed below are the summer reading choices for AP English & English 12 Honors. I highly recommend purchasing the book so students can annotate the text as they read. Alternatively, books may be borrowed from the public library, depending on the availability of public services. An electronic copy of the book may be obtained using SORA, accessible through the West Senior library's web site at <http://wswshs.wscschools.libguides.com/home>, and through the West Seneca Public Library's catalog of ebooks and via Overdrive at [https://bepl.ent.sirsi.net/client/en\\_US/default](https://bepl.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/default). I encourage students to reach out to me ([pcarlone@wscschools.org](mailto:pcarlone@wscschools.org)) or Ms. Knaze ([lknaze@wscschools.org](mailto:lknaze@wscschools.org)) if they need assistance utilizing these resources. It is also recommended students have a copy of the book for class during the first two weeks of school.

## **AP English & Hilbert 12H with Mrs. Carlone (grade 12 students)**

Students should read one of the following titles and keep a reading journal according to the directions on the *Honors Program Summer Reading Journal* criteria. Students will turn in their journals by **the second day of English class (9/8 & 9/9)**. Titles you may choose from: *Catch-22* by Joseph Heller, *The Women* by Kristin Hannah, *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte, *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski, or *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini.

If students have any questions about the honors summer reading requirement or journal, they are encouraged to email me this summer for clarification at [pcarlone@wscschools.org](mailto:pcarlone@wscschools.org).

Sincerely,

Mrs. Carlone

## Honors Program Summer Reading Journal Criteria

Complete the reading journal for one of the following (AP English/Hilbert 12H): *Catch-22* by Joseph Heller, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini, *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte, *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski, or *The Women* by Kristin Hannah.

As you read, complete journal entries according to the directions below. The number of entries should reflect complexity and length of the text you are analyzing for class; you should have **at least 20 entries**. **More entries are encouraged to cover the full scope of the novel.**

**Do not consult online resources, AI, or other literature guides for assistance.**

### Directions:

- In the textual evidence column, you will write exact quotes using ellipses ( . . . ) for long passages and enclosing text in quotation marks. Document page number (chapter number if using an ebook), speaker, and any other information necessary for recall.
- In the commentary column, you will record your thoughts and reactions using the reading strategies listed below. Each entry must be labeled according to the strategy used, i.e. (P) for a prediction you are making or (LT) for identification of a literary term and its use.
- Your textual evidence should be collected evenly throughout the book, reflecting consistent journal-keeping effort. The accompanying commentary must demonstrate use of all reading strategies and insight, a focus on details, and the beginning of analysis.

### Examples of Journal Entries:

TEXTUAL EVIDENCE	COMMENTARY
1. "I know I fib a good deal. After all, a woman's charm is fifty percent illusion, but when a thing is important I tell the truth, and this is the truth: I haven't cheated my sister or you or anyone else as long as I have lived." (sc. 2, p.41) <i>Blanche to Stanley when he questions her about losing Belle Reve</i>	Blanche begins by owning up to "fibbing," which suggests that her intentions are harmless. However, fibbing is a euphemism for lying, a word with much darker connotations. If Blanche is a liar, should we trust her assertion that she has never "cheated [her] sister or you or anyone else?" The word "illusion" seems consistent with Blanche's character. She is secretive about her age and concerned about how she looks, as if she is trying to be someone she is not. How much did these illusions cost, and upon whose backs was the expense borne? Could illusion be part of the theme of the play? (DS) (LT) (Q)
2. Description of "shadows and lurid reflections" and prostitute struggling with drunkard until police officer breaks it up; Negro woman comes along and takes purse that prostitute dropped (sc. 10, p. 128).	Does Blanche see this scene played out, or is it only for the eyes of the audience? This scene of struggle might serve as foreshadowing for what is about to happen between Blanche and Stanley. Is the purse symbolic of something Blanche will lose, like the high-class persona she tries to portray? Do the sequins represent Blanche's false decadence? (LT) (Q) (P)

### Reading Strategies:

**(C) CONNECT:** Relate to a quote, description, character, setting, etc. by connecting it to your own life, another text, or to the larger world.

**(P) PREDICT:** Anticipate what might happen in the story based on details and plot.

**(Q) QUESTION:** Address any confusion by posing a question about a quote, passage, character, etc. – Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

**(CL) CLARIFY:** Answer questions you raised earlier to aid your understanding of the plot, a character's motivation, etc. Confirm that earlier predictions were true or comment how the story took a different course than anticipated.

**(DS) DETERMINE SIGNIFICANCE:** Explain why you think the line, passage, or description is important. How is it connected to other events? What does it reveal about the theme?

**(LT) LITERARY TERM:** Consider techniques, such as symbols and allusions, the author uses to reveal themes. How does the author use diction and dialogue to reveal character? What is the author's tone?