

Greetings from the Honors English I teachers at Ragsdale!

We hope you have a safe, fun, and relaxing summer break. We also hope that you keep reading over the summer. To that end, we suggest that you choose from the following list of recommended titles to better prepare for Honors English I.

Honors English I focuses on genres including, but not limited to: poetry, short stories, vignettes, epics, plays, and novels. It is our hope that exposing students to a variety of genres broadens their understanding of what a narrative can be.

The texts below are excellent examples of these genres and connect thematically to the texts we read in class. Also included among this list are texts*** we will likely read during our semester together. You are encouraged to read ahead to give your future self a leg up. In an Honors class, almost all the reading is to be completed outside of class. For this reason, we encourage students who are planning to have challenging schedules or have limited time to read outside of school to read the texts ahead of time.

The Hunger Games by Susanne Collins

Speak by Laurie Hale Anderson

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents by Julia Alvarez

Born a Crime (YA edition) by Trevor Noah

American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang

The Absolutely True Story of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie

Unwind by Neal Schusterman

Animal Farm by George Orwell***

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury***

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens***

The Odyssey by Homer***

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee***

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare***

We look forward to meeting you and spending a semester discussing great books. Happy reading!