



Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy LA 11 Honors & LA 11 Summer Reading Assignment 2025/2026

Dear Juniors,

Each summer, students at Collegiate Academy have a summer reading assignment. Literacy is a key component in being successful in high school, and our summer reading assignment is designed to help students maintain—and even sharpen—the skills they already possess.

This summer, you have a choice between two novels: *Scythe* by Neal Shusterman or *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor.

All students who are taking LA11 H/LA11 should obtain their own personal copy of either novel and read/annotate it. Prepare yourself to take a test and write an in-class essay on your chosen novel.

A link to the online PDF copy of each novel is listed on the following page. Students who choose to read the online PDF version can annotate their copy with the Kami extension which has been installed on all students' school-issued Chromebooks. **Students will need to be logged in with their ESD credentials in order to access these PDF links. Students who do not yet have their ESD credentials can request access by emailing me at hulmer@eriesd.org.**

If you are reading a PDF version of these directions, you can find this document on our school website at eriesd.org/n pca or email me at hulmer@eriesd.org for links.

STUDENT HACK: ANNOTATING

When you read, it is important to annotate, or interact, with the text. We all naturally have ideas, feelings, mental images, and questions while reading; annotating is simply *noting* these ideas, feelings, mental images, questions, etc. Use sticky notes to mark significant passages/quotes in the text that you find particularly interesting or important while you are reading. Then, write down your thoughts, feelings, reactions to those passages/quotes on the sticky note.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Ulmer".

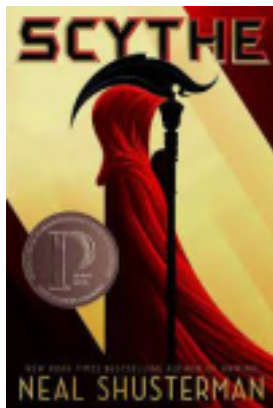
Ms. Heather Ulmer

hulmer@eriesd.org

Language Arts 11 Honors

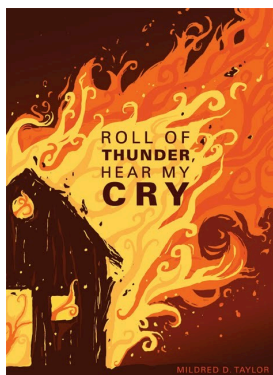
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• *Scythe (Arc of a Scythe)* by Neal Shusterman (Dystopian Fiction)

- A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery: humanity has conquered all those things, and has even conquered death. Now Scythes are the only ones who can end life—and they are commanded to do so, in order to keep the size of the population under control. Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe—a role that neither wants. These teens must master the “art” of taking life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own. *Scythe* is the first novel of a thrilling new series by National Book Award–winning author Neal Shusterman in which Citra and Rowan learn that a perfect world comes only with a heavy price.
- PDF Version [LINK](#)
- Amazon [LINK](#) for purchase
- Audio [LINK](#)



• *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor (Historical Fiction)

- Set in Mississippi at the height of the Great Depression, this is the story of one family's struggle to maintain their integrity, pride, and independence in the face of racism and social injustice. And it is also Cassie's story—Cassie Logan, an independent girl who discovers over the course of an important year why having land of their own is so crucial to the Logan family, even as she learns to draw strength from her own sense of dignity and self-respect.
- PDF Version [LINK](#)
- Amazon [LINK](#) for purchase
- Audio [LINK](#)

Directions:

- Read your novel and annotate it based on the following prompt. (See next page.)
- **COMPREHENSION TEST:** Be prepared to take a comprehension test in the first week of classes.
- **IN-CLASS ESSAY:** You will also write an in-class essay within the first week of school.
 - You will not be able to use your book to write the essay, nor will you be allowed to bring a pre-written essay to school.
 - You are only permitted annotations that follow the requirements on the next page.
 - Your essay must contain a minimum of three direct quotations – at least one from each section (beginning,

middle, end) within the novel.

- **Prompt:**

- Select a **theme** topic from your chosen novel. (See below.) As you read, add sticky notes and make comments whenever you see text/quotes that support this theme topic. You will be able to use some of your **handwritten** sticky notes for your in-class essay. Make sure to add page numbers to your sticky notes!

THEME TOPICS:

<i>Scythe</i>	<i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Love & compassion● Death● Coming of age● Morality● Corruption & justice● Courage & heroism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Racism & injustice● Freedom● Family & community● Dignity & self-respect● Independence & autonomy● Coming of age

- **Annotations Requirements:**

- Handwrite your annotations on notecards or sticky notes. (If you choose to read/annotate the PDF version of your novel, you will still need to make sticky notes to use for your in-class essay.)
- Copy the text/quote that supports your theme topic.
- Add your response/comment/analysis/etc.
- Include the page number.
- Find at least three annotations from each section (beginning, middle, end) in the novel (9 total).

Remember to contact me with any questions. Enjoy your summer!

