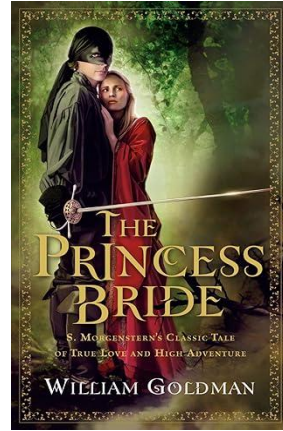
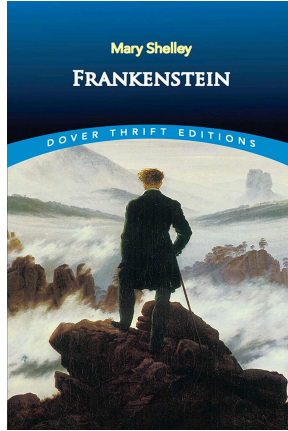
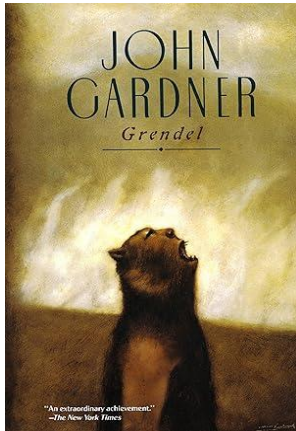


## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 12

### Summer reading 2025

Email [jditrich@eriesd.org](mailto:jditrich@eriesd.org) or [mpiper@eriesd.org](mailto:mpiper@eriesd.org) with questions



Choose one of the books above, [Grendel](#) by John Gardner, [Frankenstein](#) by Mary Shelley, or [The Princess Bride](#) by William Goldman to read and annotate for your upcoming 12th grade English class. I suggest going to [Amazon.com](#) and reading the descriptions for all of the novels before you choose. You must have your own physical copy of the novel. As you read your chosen book, your task is to identify themes and annotate any passages, quotes, or characters that embody those themes.

#### OVER THE SUMMER YOU SHOULD:

Read one of the novels: *Grendel*, *Frankenstein*, or *The Princess Bride*.

1. Complete a minimum of 20 annotations for the book using post-it notes on Symbols/Images/Motifs/Memorable Quotes. Annotations should:
  - a. Be spread throughout the novel, not just the first few chapters.
  - b. Be handwritten on 3x3 post-it notes (not pieces of paper, typed notes, or prewritten essays)
  - c. Include the Theme of Focus at the top of the post-it
  - d. Include a Paraphrase or Quote – Quotes should be in “parentheses.”
  - e. Include the page number
  - f. Do not just list the topic, but make sure to explain the significance as well.
2. Create a chart (see below) in Word or Google and include:
  - a. chapter and page number
  - b. theme
  - c. quote
  - d. analysis

#### ON THE FIRST DAYS OF CLASS:

1. You will submit the completed chart to [Turnitin.com](#)
2. Write an essay on the book you chose. [You will not be able to use the chart, but you will be able to use your post-it note annotations while writing the essay.]
  - a. You are only permitted annotations that follow the requirements above; anything else will be confiscated.
  - b. Your essay must contain a minimum of three direct quotations (at least one from each section or book within the novel).

**NOTE ON THE SUMMER READING:** The summer reading assignment is essential to the class. You may NOT choose to skip it. This is the summer reading assignment and therefore it must be completed by the first day of class. Failure to complete the summer reading will result in you receiving an IN (Incomplete) for the first quarter, you still being required to complete the assignment, and a zero.

**NOTE ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Academic integrity is honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Every assignment you do in school is meant to measure your knowledge of something or your ability to do something. The grade you receive on the assignment should reflect that knowledge or ability, but an assignment cannot truly measure your knowledge or ability if you have not done your own work. The summer reading assignment should be the product solely of your thoughts, effort, and ideas. Do your own work. You may not in any way work with someone else on this assignment. If your summer reading assignments show any evidence of your having copied from a website, a classmate, using AI, or any other source, you will receive a zero on both the assignment and the essay and will not be able to do them again.

How to Annotate:

1. **Choose a Theme:** Select themes that you find interesting or relevant in the book. Think about what the author is trying to convey through the story. See common themes and questions to guide you below. *You do not need to use all of the themes listed.*
2. **Identify Passages:** Look for passages or quotes that directly or indirectly relate to your chosen theme. These can be moments of dialogue, descriptions, or actions by the characters. Pay attention to any symbolism or metaphors that contribute to the theme.
3. **Annotate:** Write down your thoughts, observations, and questions on Post-its, but remember to also record them in your chart. Additionally, highlight or underline the passages that are significant to the theme in your book. Consider the following questions:
  - a. How does this passage contribute to the theme?
  - b. What does it reveal about the characters or their motivations?
  - c. How does it connect to the overall message of the book?

Example of the chart you need to create:

Chapter/Page	Theme	Quote	Significance
Chapter 1/ pg 5	Friendship	“I desperately need a friend who would have sense enough not to despise me as romantic, and affection enough for me to endeavour to regulate my mind” (Shelley 5).	This quote displays Walton’s desire for a friend. He is trying to find the Northwest Passage and is alone. His aloneness sets up the idea that the major characters all might desire friendship at some point.
Chapter 2, pg 10, etc.			

Common Literary Themes:

1. Love and Relationships: Love and relationships are often central themes. Stories explore the complexities of romantic love, familial bonds, and friendships. Examples include unrequited love, forbidden love, and the challenges of maintaining relationships in the face of societal expectations.

**Guiding Questions:**

- How does the theme of love and relationships contribute to the development of characters and their motivations?
- What does the portrayal of different types of relationships reveal about the society in which the story is set?

2. Social Class and Inequality: Literature frequently delves into the theme of social class and the disparities between different societal groups. It explores the struggles and conflicts arising from class divisions, as well as the impact of social status on individuals' lives and opportunities.

**Guiding Questions:**

- How does the theme of social class shape the characters' experiences and interactions?
- What commentary does the author make about the effects of social inequality on society?

3. Identity and Self-Discovery: Many literary works explore the theme of identity and self-discovery. Characters often embark on journeys of self-exploration, grappling with questions of personal identity, cultural heritage, and the search for meaning and purpose in life.

**Guiding Questions:**

- How do the characters' journeys of self-discovery contribute to the overall themes of the story?
- What does the exploration of identity reveal about the human experience and the search for self?

4. War and Conflict: War and conflict are recurring themes in literature. These stories examine the devastating effects of war on individuals and society, exploring themes of loss, trauma, and the human capacity for resilience.

**Guiding Questions:**

- How does the theme of war and conflict shape the characters' experiences and relationships?
- What insights does the author provide about the impact of war on individuals and society?

5. Nature and the Environment: Literature often celebrates the beauty of nature and explores humanity's relationship with the natural world. Themes of environmentalism, the power of nature, and the impact of human actions on the environment are frequently explored.

**Guiding Questions:**

- How does the portrayal of nature contribute to the overall themes and messages of the story?
- What commentary does the author make about humanity's relationship with the natural world?

6. Morality and Ethics: Morality and ethics are common themes, with stories often grappling with questions of right and wrong, good and evil. Characters face moral dilemmas and ethical choices, and the consequences of their actions are examined.

**Guiding Questions:**

- How do the characters' moral dilemmas contribute to the development of the story?
- What commentary does the author make about the complexities of morality and ethics?

7. Power and Corruption: The theme of power and corruption is prevalent in literature, with stories exploring the abuse of power, political corruption, and the struggle for justice. These narratives often shed light on the flaws and vulnerabilities of those in positions of authority.

**Guiding Questions:**

- How does the theme of power and corruption shape the dynamics between characters and their interactions with society?
- What insights does the author provide about the consequences of unchecked power and the struggle for justice?

8. Loss and Grief: Loss and grief are universal themes. Stories delve into the emotional journey of characters dealing with the loss of loved ones, the process of grieving, and the search for healing and closure.

**Guiding Questions:**

- How does the theme of loss and grief contribute to the emotional depth of the story?
- What insights does the author provide about the human experience of loss and the process of healing?

9. Coming of Age: Coming of age is a common theme focusing on the transition from childhood to adulthood. These stories often depict the challenges, growth, and self-discovery that accompany this transformative period in a person's life.

**Guiding Questions:**

- How does the theme of coming of age contribute to the development of the protagonist?
- What insights does the author provide about the universal experiences and challenges of growing up?

10. Social and Political Commentary: Literature frequently serves as a platform for social and political commentary. It explores societal issues, critiques prevailing norms and values, and offers insights into the political landscape of different time periods.

**Guiding Questions:**

- How does the theme of social and political commentary contribute to the overall message of the story?
- What insights does the author provide about the society and politics of the time period in which the story is set?