

Beverly Hills High School
2018 Summer Reading List for English Honors and AP Classes

- Completion of summer reading will be assessed by a combination of assessments at the start of the year in grades 9-12.
- Annotations will NOT be required for the summer reading books. However, we do encourage students to take notes as they read so that they will be more prepared to discuss the summer reading works in class. Any note taking will help students review for the assessments.
- *All students entering Honors or AP next year will be required to read Born a Crime by Trevor Noah. **There will be an assessment on this text as there will be for all other summer reading texts.***

Incoming freshmen will be required to read the following two books prior to the opening of school in August:

Hiatt	<u>A Dream Come True – An Entertaining Way for Students to Learn Greek Mythology</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapters 1 - 25 only• Available through the 8th grade teachers or in House A of BHHS
Trevor Noah	<u>Born a Crime</u>

Incoming sophomores will be required to read the following two books prior to the opening of school in August:

Golding	<u>Lord of the Flies</u>
Trevor Noah	<u>Born a Crime</u>

Incoming juniors will be required to read the following three books prior to the opening of school in August:

Miller	<u>The Crucible</u>
Maxine Hong Kingston	<u>The Woman Warrior</u>
Trevor Noah	<u>Born a Crime</u>

Incoming seniors will be required to read the following four texts prior to the opening of school in August:

Virgil	<u>Aeneid</u> (Fagles, trans.)
Books of Genesis & Exodus	(Bible, New Revised Standard Translation)
Trevor Noah	<u>Born a Crime</u>

Given the nature of the AP Literature course content, we also believe that incoming seniors unfamiliar with Homer's Odyssey would benefit greatly from a reading of that epic before the start of the school year.

(Revised May 7, 2018)



Beverly Hills High School – English Department FAQ Summer Reading

Q: Why does the English Department require summer reading for the Honors and Advanced Placement classes?

A: The curriculum at the honors and AP level requires extensive reading of high level texts. Summer reading is a means for students to maintain and improve their current reading level through continual practice. Those students who do well on the AP exams in English are, in general, strong readers who read all the time. Additionally, the department selects texts that are aligned with the curriculum of the upcoming grade level.

Q: Why are there two books at 9th and 10th grade and three books for 11th and 12th grade?

A: 9th and 10th grade are honor level classes while 11th and 12th grade are AP classes which are technically college level classes. The AP classes, therefore, require more reading.

Q: Why did the English department change their SR requirements over the recent years?

A: Over the past years, we have consistently re-evaluated the summer reading assignment as students have become more and more committed to various summer programs. After receiving feedback from various stakeholders, the department decided to shorten the list last year. We have made a few additional changes for this summer.

Q: Why was *Born a Crime* selected as the common book read by all students for summer reading?

A: [Born a Crime by Trevor Noah](#) is an international bestseller which affords the reader a deeply personal look at the cruel legacy of Apartheid South Africa. In reading the book, students will explore issues of race, class, education and resilience through the life of Trevor Noah.

Noah was born over 30 years ago in South Africa under the rigidly and brutally enforced system of apartheid, the son of a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother. As Noah writes, “In any society built on institutionalized racism, race-mixing doesn’t merely challenge the system as unjust, it reveals the system as unsustainable and incoherent...Because a mixed person embodies that rebuke...race-mixing becomes a crime worse than treason.”

We believe that reading *Born a Crime* will be a nourishing pleasure for our students. Through the waning days of Apartheid, Noah recounts his story of negotiating his way through the bullying and ostracism from darker-skinned children in his township to making his outsider status work for him among the jocks, nerds and party people.

The book is also special as Noah depicts with great love and appreciation Patricia Nombuyiselo Noah, who in many ways is *Born a Crime*’s greatest heroic figure. While Noah’s white father Robert was a distant, though still caring figure in his life, his mother administered “old-school, Old Testament

discipline,” broadening his horizons while also compelling him to understand the world’s harsher aspects.

Born a Crime deserves to be catalogued on the same list of funny, sensitive memoirs such as *Angela’s Ashes* by Frank McCourt and *the Color of Water* by James McBride. We strongly encourage families to make this a family affair and to join their children in reading and discussing [Born a Crime by Trevor Noah](#).

ANNOTATIONS OR READER RESPONSE LOGS

You are **NOT** required to do annotations or reader response logs for each of the summer reading books, however, **we strongly encourage you to interact with the text**. The chart below outlines some possible means to interact with the text as you are reading.

Feature	Annotations	Reader Response Logs
Benefits of this process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Responding in written form while reading helps you focus on what you are reading so that you can respond to it more insightfully. 2. You are more likely to remember facts and ideas that you write down; consequently, you will be more likely to do well on summer reading tests and essays. 3. Since your teacher will probably be requiring a similar process for material that you read during the year, practicing the system on the summer reading will make the transition into the regular school year even easier. 	
Location	Notes are handwritten in your own, new book. Write your name in ink on the inside cover. DO NOT use post-it notes in a library book. If you do not choose to buy a copy of the book, do a reading log.	Notes are handwritten or typed on separate paper or in a notebook
Structure	Notes should be a combination of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. in the margins 2. at the end of the chapter (especially for chapter summaries) 3. in line with the actual text (especially when underlining or circling important words and concepts) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Divide your paper into two columns. 2. When something you have read causes you to react, make a note of what it was in the left column (either a quote or specific concrete detail). Include page numbers whenever possible. (Since the notes are outside the book, this step is necessary to enable you to connect your notes to the part of the text to which they refer). 3. In the right column, record your reaction, which can be a statement or a question.
Content	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes record your reactions to the literature. 2. They may be in the form of questions or comments. 3. Making note of new characters, literary devices, and potential themes or 	Reading logs can contain much of the same information as annotations. However, you may wish to write reactions a little more fully since they are not joined to their context in the book. Reader response logs were originally developed to record emotional

	<p>messages is especially useful.</p> <p>4. Chapter summaries at the ends of the chapters are useful for review purposes.</p>	<p>and subjective responses to the literature, but there is no reason why you can't also use them for responses of a more analytical nature.</p>
Frequency	<p>One reaction for every two pages of text is a reasonable minimum expectation if the annotations or logs are to be effective. Some pages may not cause you to react at all, while others may cause you to react ten times.</p>	
Accountability	<p>The primary way in which you are held accountable for summer reading is through the essays and tests given near the beginning of the school year. Students who are diligent in their annotations or log comments will normally do better on the summer reading essays and tests.</p>	
Samples	<p>Visit the website of the BHHS English Department for a Sample Page of Annotations and a Sample Reading Log: http://bhhs.bhusd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=10612&type=d&rn=7654989 An instructional video on the annotation process is available at http://www.screencast.com/t/YzqzYTgxNzU. The video is designed for freshmen but might be helpful to others who are looking for basic information on annotation.</p>	