



Pre-AP English 1: Summer 2026

Welcome to Kennedy Catholic Preparatory School where your academic journey begins this summer! In order to prevent learning losses from the previous year and to increase learning levels in the next school year, the English Department assigns reading and writing to all students each summer. We hope that as you continue to hone your reading and writing skills, you will also enjoy the literature! (You do not need to purchase these books unless you wish. You may have them on the bookshelves at home, or you may borrow them from the library. In September, you will download the texts to your school-issued iPad so that you can refer to them during class discussion.)

Incoming 9th graders enrolled in the *Pre-AP English 1* course are asked to complete the following two assignments.

1. Read *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway. After reading this novella, please answer the following 2 questions. This assignment, composed in your best written English, must be either computer-generated or written neatly in blue or black ink on loose leaf paper. (A) How do the author and narrator depict Santiago? In your response, identify three adjectives which best describe Santiago. While writing this short character sketch (approximately 10 -12 sentences), include specific details from the plot to support your assertions. (B) Write about 2 significant or powerful quotations. Begin by copying each quotation and identifying its speaker (which may be the narrator.) Then explain why you feel each excerpt is important. Each explanation should be approximately 10 – 12 sentences.

2. Read *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. After reading this book, please write an essay of approximately 250 words in which you identify and discuss one major theme. Keep in mind that theme is more than one word; it is the insight into life which an author offers through a work of literature. This assignment, composed in your best written English, must be either computer-generated or written neatly in blue or black ink on loose leaf paper. *This novel contains language and viewpoints that may be upsetting and do not reflect the values of our school community. We study them because of their historical significance and literary merit, and we approach them with care, critical reflection, and respect for the diverse experiences of our students.*

Both written assignments will be based on your own thoughts and expression. Please do not consult outside sources (such as the internet). Writing will be collected on the first day of classes. Besides receiving a grade for these assignments, you will have at least two more assessments on these literary works (following class discussion.) If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Miss Willis (English Department Chair) via email: swillis@kennedycatholic.org. Enjoy the summer! All of us are looking forward to welcoming you to Kennedy Catholic Preparatory School soon!