



Pre-AP English 1 Honors: Summer 2026

Welcome to Kennedy Catholic Preparatory School where your academic journey begins this summer! In order to prevent learning losses from the previous school year and to increase learning levels in the next school year, we assign 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 **Pre-AP English 1 Honors** course are asked to complete the following 2 assignments.

1. Read *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. Then, in your best written English, compose a 250 – 300 word essay about a major theme in Lee’s work. (This should be computer-generated or neatly written in blue or black ink on loose leaf paper). Keep in mind that a theme in literature focuses on a major message or belief that the author expresses in his or her literary work. A theme is not a topic (e.g., obstacles), but, instead, a phrase (e.g., the challenges or means of surmounting obstacles). In your essay, include 2 to 3 significant quotations (from the novel) that you consider supportive of this theme. *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.*

2. Read *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. Then, in your best written English, compose a 250 - 300 word essay in which you discuss the development of Montag’s character by describing the major changes that his character undergoes as the plot unfolds. In order to help you answer this prompt, you may wish to consider: How do Clarisse, Faber and other characters in the novel influence Montag’s development? Why does Montag question the morals of his society? In addition to 2 to 3 direct quotations, please include specific evidence/examples from the text to support your claims. (This should also be computer-generated or neatly written in blue or black ink on loose leaf paper.)

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!