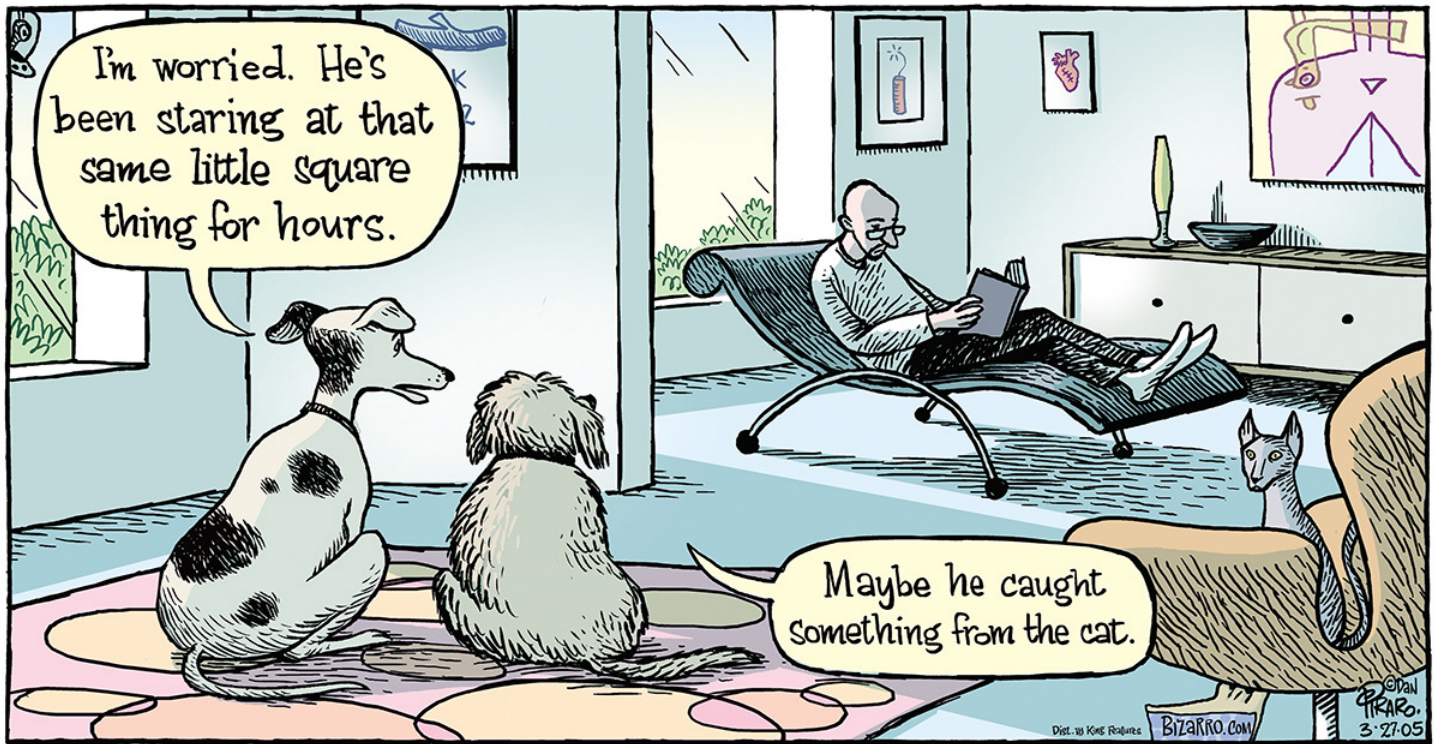


# Entering 12<sup>th</sup> Grade English

## SUMMER READING



In order to be best prepared for joining our English classroom in the fall, you will read two works this summer and will complete your choice of assignments outlined below. These assignments are meant to (1) supply you with references for in-class discussions and (2) give you a head start on the first assignment of the fall semester. All Readings and Assignments will be due at the end of the first week of classes.

### 12th Grade Required Reading

□ Vonnegut, Kurt. [\*Slaughterhouse Five\*](#). Dial Press, 1969

After reading, select one of the following as a final project for our reading of the novel. Projects will be graded on the use or representation of details from the novel, the overall understanding of the novel demonstrated by the project (this can include theme, character awareness, etc.), creativity of the product (I want to see your ideas and work, not those of others repurposed for your project), and finishing touches (the effort you put in to making the project look great and feel cared for).

*If you like comics...*

**Graphic Novel / Comic Book**

Recreate the story in a graphic novel (i.e. comic book) format. Choose the most important scenes – in your view– and tell the story of *Slaughterhouse Five* while sharing it with an audience through the combination of illustration and words. Use the language of the book where appropriate, and include details in the actual drawings. Part of your grade will be based on the quality/effort put into the artwork (no stick figures). Include an introduction in which you explain what you tried to capture in your recreation of the novel (e.g., “I wanted

to emphasize the extent to which this character felt alienated by. I did this because... and showed it by...”), and what aspects of the novel (mood, imagery, etc.) you are trying to convey in your illustration.

### *If you like games...*

### **Board Game**

Take your close reading of the novel and turn it into a game! Be sure to use specific details from the text. The purpose of this project is to help someone understand the characters and their journeys as well as you do, not to quiz people on facts. Consider giving players choices and challenges, rather than asking trivia questions. You may model your game on an existing game (i.e. The Game of Life) or create your own. The game should help others learn in an innovative way and think about the novel’s themes. You must include all pieces and instructions in order for the game to be played effectively.

### *If you like arts and music...*

### **Artistic Portrayal**

Select one of the following. You must include a typed reflection on your piece that is 1-2 pages long. In it, you must explain your piece and how it connects with *Slaughterhouse-Five*. Include a works cited page and incorporate 4 quotes from the text.

- Paint a scene from *Slaughterhouse Five*. This must be worthy of me hanging onto it for years and proudly displaying it in my classroom until I retire.
- Make a Tralfamadorian, or a whole bunch of little Tralfamadorian that I can display. This has to be really good! **NO LEGOS, PLEASE! Also, don’t give me a plunger with a glove.**
- For theatre types: Choose a pivotal scene and create a promptbook—adapt for the stage, deleting lines as necessary, include stage directions, stage scenery, costumes, etc.
- For music aficionados: *Create a Slaughterhouse Five vinyl*. Create a vinyl cover, select 4 songs and address how they connect to SH-5’s themes and purpose.

### *If you like psychology...*

### **Mind & Body Map**

Study how Billy Pilgrim’s experiences affect him physically and psychologically. Create a final product that uses imagery and texts to analyze Billy. Select from the range of items below to create your map and use excerpts from the text to support your choices.

Appearances: Consider how Billy appears to others on the surface and what you know about his inner self. Do these images correspond or clash? What does this tell you about him?

Equipment/Accessories: What items does Billy need/acquire/possess? What & why? Evolution: How does Billy change over the course of the book?

Conflicts: With whom/what does Billy struggle? How can you illustrate these conflicts?

Geography: Obviously locations matter to Billy. How do those locations tie into various elements of his personality? Do certain locations associate more specifically with certain physical/psychological/emotional traits? How can you demonstrate that?

Motivations: Actors often discuss a character's objective or motivation or "spine". What is his most important goal? What drives his thoughts and actions? How can you illustrate it?

Qualities—What are Billy's most admirable qualities? What are his worst? Can you show it?

Symbols—What objects can you associate with Billy that illustrate his essence? Of course there are objects in the book you can use, but are there other objects that especially seem to correspond with Billy?

Thoughts: What thoughts and ideas dominate Billy's mind? How do those ideas relate to Billy's physical/geographical locations? How can you demonstrate those relationships?

Ups and Downs—Identify the high and low points of Billy's life and determine causes (events, characters, etc) and effects (mental and/or physical distress, drastic measures, etc?).

*If you like creative writing...*

**Letters to Billy**

Write a series of letters from the characters of the novel to one another, to Billy, or to another character of your choosing. The letters should demonstrate knowledge of Vonnegut's descriptions, both visual and verbal. For example, what does the fact that he is a member of the John Birch Society tell us about Billy's father-in-law? How might that affect his voice in a letter? **You should include at least 6 letters of at least 300 words a piece.**

*If you like writing essays...*

**Literary Analysis**

Compose a 2-4 page essay that responds to one of the prompts below with strong details from the novel. Include at least 4 references to the text and a works cited page.

1. Mini-research paper: John Hinckley, who attempted an assassination of Ronald Reagan in 1981, and Mark Compose a 2-4 page essay that responds to one of the prompts below with strong details from the novel. Include at least 4 references to the text.
2. Imagery is perhaps Vonnegut's most powerful literary tool in Slaughterhouse-Five. Explain the function of images in the book.
3. Compare and contrast the character of Billy—or any of the minor characters—with images of machinery in the book. What is the significance of any similarities or differences?
4. The subtitle of Slaughterhouse-Five is The Children's Crusade, a Duty-Dance with Death. Explain this subtitle in terms of the themes and also the structure of the book.
5. How does Slaughterhouse-Five represent a modern or postmodern work of art? What similarities and/or differences does it have with other works of art of the time period?

# 12th Grade Choice Reading

You may choose **one** of the following books and complete a book report as detailed below.

## Book Report Structure -

2-3 pages in length, MLA Format (times new roman, 12 point font, double spaced)

- **INTRODUCTION**

- First sentence: Name of book, type of book (historical novel, biography, etc.), author
- Second sentence: number of pages, main subject, main character's name
- Third sentence: Describe the setting and theme (this is often easier to write after you've written the rest of the report)

- **PARAGRAPH 2: PLOT**

- At the opening of the book, what is happening? (1-2 sentences) \
- What trials does the main character face throughout the book? (3-4 sentences)
- What is the climax of the book? (1 sentence)
- How does the book resolve? (1 sentence)

- **PARAGRAPH 3: THEME: WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE STRUGGLE THAT THE CHARACTER IS FACING?**

- Point 1: what is the character like in the beginning? List one specific thing that happened that shows you this.
- Point 2: What effect do the challenges that the main character face have on that character? List three specific events and their effects.
- Point 3: How does the main conflict in the book change the character? What does this tell you about the theme that the author is trying to convey?

- **PARAGRAPH 4: CONCLUSION**

- What did you like about the book?
- Restate the theme and how it is resolved.
- What makes the book special (or not special)?
- Who would you recommend this book to and why?

## BOOK CHOICES

Choose one book you have not read before.

### Nonfiction

1. *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei (Graphic Novel)
2. *The Freedom Writers Diary* by Erin Grewell
3. *The Men We Reaped* by Jesmyn Ward
4. *West With The Night* by Beryl Markham

### Teenage Protagonist

5. *The Power of One* by Bryce Courtenay
6. *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri
7. *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson
8. *Over the Water* by Casey Maude
9. *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* by Mark Haddon
10. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky

### Romance

11. *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte
12. *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
13. *Tess Of The D'ubervilles* By Thomas Hardy
14. *The Mill On Floss* by George Eliot
15. *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* by Victor Hugo

### Science Fiction & Fantasy

16. *The Once and Future King* by T. H. White
17. *The Power* by Naomi Alderman
18. *The Young Elites* by Marie Lu
19. *The Lost Hero* by Rick Riordan
20. *Memory of Earth* by Orsan Scott Card
21. *Lord of the Rings* by J R R Tolkein
22. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams

### Adventure

23. *The Story of King Arthur and His Knights* by Howard Pyle
24. *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad
25. *Band of Brothers* by Stephan Ambrose
26. *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London
27. *Dove And Sword: A Novel Of Joan Of Arc* by Nancy Garden

### Drama

28. *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr
29. *Same Kind of Different as Me* by Ron Hall and Denver Moore
30. *Cry the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton
31. *For Whom The Bell Tolls* by Ernest Hemingway

### Mystery and Horror

32. *And then There Were None* by Agatha Christie
33. *The Outsider* by Stephen King
34. *Something Wicked This Way Comes* by Ray Bradbury
35. *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson