



ENG I: Shock and Awe: The Writer's Craft

Summer Reading and Experience List

"Any topic you want to be able to read about is a topic you must become knowledgeable about." ~E.D. Hirsch Jr. and Lisa Hansel

"...what students already know about the content is one of the strongest indicators of how well they will learn new information relative to the content." (Marzano) Building background knowledge both helps students engage with complex texts and ensures that learning sticks. Independently selecting and reading texts, along with engaging in dynamic experiences connected to upcoming topics or themes, builds this important content knowledge. When students head into the school year armed with knowledge about upcoming content, they are better able to access and develop a deeper understanding of complex texts in curriculum.

Tips for Summer Reading

- Encourage active engagement by participating in a local library's [summer reading incentive](#).
- Get your child hooked onto a [great series](#). Entertaining, or suspenseful, series are often the launchpad for a lasting love of reading.
- Reading with your child sets a powerful example and is a great way to connect.
- Take advantage of literacy apps. Interactive, engaging research-based programs can offer additional ways for students to rack up minutes reading.



This compilation of texts and experiences is designed to provide students with guided choices as they engage in independent summer reading. Lists include a range of genres, "reading levels" and types of experiences; students should be encouraged to read texts that are interesting and explore exciting opportunities in DC.

Course Overview

Course Theme

The premise of English I is that powerful stories and influential leaders share several similarities. Influential leaders, like a powerful story, move us to laughter, tears, reflection, or action. How do authors and leaders shape our thoughts, feelings, and actions? In this course, students will study how texts influence readers through literary and rhetorical analysis. They'll closely study author's purpose and craft, further developing their own identities as leaders. By the end of the year, students will have developed the nuanced skills of textual analysis and argumentation.



SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Unit 1: Honorable Actions and Honorable Words

What is honor and why is it important to define?

Unit 2: Tension in Literature

How do authors hook and hold their readers?

Unit 3: Identity in Literature

What is emphasized in the art and literature of the Harlem Renaissance?

Unit 4: Love or Madness

Does love cause Romeo and Juliet to act irrationally?



Suggested Summer Reading and Experience List

Students should research all suggested (optional) texts and select a few interesting texts to read over the summer!

	Suggested Texts	Suggested Experiences
Unit 1: Honorable Actions & Words	<i>Soldier's Heart</i> by Gary Paulsen (F) <i>Riot</i> by Walter Dean Myers (F) <i>Photo by Brady: A Picture of the Civil War</i> by Jennifer Armstrong (NF) <i>Gettysburg: The Graphic Novel</i> by C.M. Butzer (NF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smithsonian Albert H. Small Documents Gallery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gettysburg Address Exhibit Location Interactive Virtual Exhibit Lincoln Memorial
Unit 2: Tension in Literature	<i>Color Me Dark</i> by Patricia McKissack (F) <i>The Case for Jamie</i> by Britney Cavallaro (F) <i>Baseball and the Color Line</i> by Thomas Gilbert (NF) <i>The Lottery</i> by Shirley Jackson (F) <i>The Whole Town's Sleeping (The Ravine)</i> by Ray Bradbury (F)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jacob Lawrence: The Migration Series <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letters Penned by Migrants Virtual Gallery
Unit 3: Identity in Literature	<i>Harlem Summer</i> by Walter Dean Myers (F) <i>Sorrow's Kitchen</i> by Mary E. Lyons (NF) Harlem Stomp! by Laban Carrick Hill (NF) <i>One Last Word</i> by Nikki Grimes (P)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smithsonian American Art Museum Virtual Exhibit National Museum of African American History and Culture: Ella's Books Exhibit
Unit 4: Love or Madness	<i>Shakespeare's Sonnets: The Complete Illustrated Edition</i> by William Shakespeare <i>Stepping into William Shakespeare's World</i> by Maloof and Hill (F) <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> by Zora Neale Hurston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Folger Tours Macbeth Theatrical Play Audio Shakespeare Theater Company Classes for Teens

*Fiction (F), Non-Fiction (NF), Poetry (P)

Talk About It!

Consider using any of the following questions to spur discussion:

- Unit 1: Which kinds of characters draw in readers most, honorable or dishonorable?
- Unit 1: What kinds of actions, thoughts and words makes a character, or person, memorable, or even compelling?
- Unit 2: How did African American migration from the South impact Northern cities in the United States?
- Unit 2: What differences can you note in the African American experience in the South, as compared to the North, during the Great Migration?
- Unit 3: What did the Harlem Renaissance signify for African Americans?
- Unit 4: Is there a limit on how much one should sacrifice for love?

