

ULS High School English
Summer Reading Assignment

This summer, we want you to read as much as you want! For your summer reading assignment, choose two books that meet the requirements of two squares on the bingo board.

Books can only be used once. It's important that you choose at least two different titles.

We will spend the first few days of school talking about your books and getting to know each other as readers. Your teacher may ask you to revisit the bingo board for your independent reading once school starts.

One square asks you to read a book from the LYRC: Louisiana Young Readers Choice or LTRC: Louisiana Teen Readers Choice lists. These lists can be found by [clicking this link](#). The lists are sorted by grade level. Please look at the 9-12 grade lists. The Archives button will send you to previous award winners and nominees. There are some excellent titles that would likely fill many squares on this bingo board!

We want you to read books that are engaging, thought-provoking and appropriate for you. We will use the books you read over the summer as the basis of our first discussion and writing assignments when school starts. Choosing good books is your first opportunity to make an impression on your new teacher. Please select books that are suitable for writing and discussion in a high school English classroom. This assignment is not the time to revisit a book you studied in middle school or a title that you have reread since the fifth grade.

It's fine to listen to audiobooks. Please acquire a paper copy of the book and follow along as you listen. You will need to bring paper copies of the books you read to class in August.

If you'd like some recommendations, please email one of the teachers below. We are happy to give suggestions, but please know that not every book is right for every reader. You and your grownups will decide on the right choices for this assignment.

There is an assignment for you to complete. Please see the instructions on the next page of this document. Additional book recommendations can be found at the end of this document.

Happy Reading!

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Summer Reading Bingo

Read a book set in the past OR the future Title:	Read a biography or memoir Title:	Read a graphic novel that is NOT on the middle school library shelf Title:
Read a book translated from another language Title:	Read a book with your parent or a book your parent recommends Title:	Read a young adult “classic” (a book for teens published before 2000) Title:
Read a book set in a place you’d like to visit Title:	Read a book not written in traditional prose (such as a verse novel, novel written in letters, or a screenplay, for example) Title:	Read a book from the LYRC or LTRC list OR a book that has won an award Title:

Assignment

As you read, look for at least three extracts (about one page each) in each of your books that would be good to discuss and possibly to use for a piece of writing.

A good extract is a selection of text that features at least one of the following:

- Clear, vivid description of setting or character
- Dialogue that is used meaningfully to develop conflict or character
- Language that shows a character at a turning point or making a decision that will affect the rest of the book
- Interesting text features (such as illustrations, different typefaces, etc.)
- An aspect of the language or content that raises a question or makes an interesting connection to an experience familiar to you

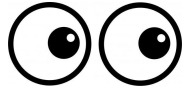
You are likely familiar with [Notice and Note](#) signposts (Beers and Probst, 2021) as listed below. Look for those elements to help you find a good passage.

1. **Contrasts and Contradictions:** Sharp differences between what we expect characters to do, and what they actually do
2. **Aha Moments:** Realizations that shift characters’ actions or understanding

3. **Tough Questions:** Questions characters raise that reveal their inner struggles
4. **Words of the Wiser:** Advice or insights wiser characters offer about life
5. **Again and Again:** Events, images, or particular words that recur throughout a text or an essential portion of it
6. **Memory Moments:** Recollections by a character that interrupt the forward progress of the story

*If you listen to an audio version of your book, you should acquire a printed copy and locate the text extract with which you will work.

During the first week of school, your teacher will ask you to work with these extracts. Take a clear picture of each page that you select and save the images to a folder in your @uhighlsu.com Google Drive.



Looking for book recommendations?

Try one of the lists below.

Please note that some of these books contain mature language and themes. Also, not every book is right for every reader. Students and families are encouraged to select books that suit their own interests and preferences.

Louisiana Teen Readers Choice Nominees

2025-2026

Selections for Grades 9-12:

America Redux: Visual Stories from Our Dynamic History by Ariel Aberg-Riger

Bonesmith by Nicki Pau Preto

Find Him Where You Left Him Dead by Kristen Simmons

Give Me a Sign by Anna Sortino

The Luis Ortega Survival Club by Sonora Reyes

The Princess and the Grilled Cheese Sandwich by Deya Muniz

Promise Boys by Nick Brooks

Reggie and Delilah's Year of Falling by Elise Bryant

Rez Ball by Byron Graves

Wrath Becomes Her by Aden Polydoros

2026-2027

Selections for Grades 9-12:

- *Aisle Nine* written by Ian X. Cho (HarperCollins)
- *Bright Red Fruit* written by Safia Elhillo (Make Me a World, Penguin Random House)
- *Brownstone* written by Samuel Teer, illustrated by Mar Julia (Versify, HarperCollins)
- *Don't Let The Forest In* written by CG Drews (Feiwel & Friends, Macmillan)
- *Dungeons and Drama* written by Kristy Boyce (Delacorte Press, Penguin Random House)
- *Grief in the Fourth Dimension* written by Jennifer Yu (Harry N. Abrams, Abrams)
- *Libertad* written by Bessie Flores Zaldívar (Dial Books, Penguin Random House)
- *The Second Chance of Darius Logan* written by David F. Walker (Scholastic Press, Scholastic)
- *Shackled: A Tale of Wronged Kids, Rogue Judges, and a Town that Looked Away* written by Candy J. Cooper (Calkins Creek, Astra Publishing House)
- *The Thirteenth Child* written by Erin A. Craig (Delacorte Press, Penguin Random House)

2025 Walden Award Winner & Finalists

The Great Cool Ranch Dorito in the Sky by Josh Galarza

Rez Ball by Byron Graves

Unbecoming by Seema Yasmin

Grief in the Fourth Dimension by Jennifer Yu

Libertad by Bessie Flores Zaldivar

2026 Walden Award Nominees

All the Noise at Once by DeAndra Davis

All the Tomorrows After by Joanna Yi

Song of a Blackbird by Maria Van Lieshout

It's You Every Time by Charlene Thomas

