



## St. Katharine Drexel Prep Summer Reading Information 2017-2018

*Please note the changes for 2017-2018 in these summer reading tasks.*

1. Students, if you are entering English I through English IV, you must choose and read TWO books, one which the English department has required and one of your choice, from the list for the English class that you will be entering in the fall of 2017. You will be taking a test on the required book and will be writing a 5 paragraph book report with a works cited for the book of your choice from the list answering the included prompts. You can use the novel as well as news articles and reviews related to the book as your sources, but you must have 3 sources in your works cited in MLA format.
2. The book reports will be graded using the Louisiana Believes EOC rubric. The tests will be proctored and the book reports will be due the second week of school in the fall of 2017.

<https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/assessment-2013-2014/writing-rubrics-english-ii-english-language-arts.pdf>

## Book Choices

### Students Entering ELA 8

---Students must read the required book and a book of their choice from the following list:

**Required Book**

*The Shepherd's Granddaughter by Laurel Anne Carter*

**Choices for Students Entering ELA 8—Choose one.**

*Narrative of Sojourner Truth by Sojourner Truth*

*Life of a Slave Girl by Harriet Jacobs*

Prompt: Compare and contrast the amount of work male and female slaves were forced to take on according to Western colonial gender values and legal codes. Explain.

### Students Entering English I

---Students must read the required book and a book of their choice from the following list:

**Required Book**

*The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd*

**Choices for Students Entering English I—Choose one.**

*Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes*

Prompt: Define ableism. What civil rights do people with mental and physical disabilities struggle for daily? Compare modern civil rights issues for people with mental and physical disabilities to the struggles Charlie faces in Flower for Algernon.

*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass by Frederick Douglass*

Prompt: In what ways did the Virginia Slave Codes affect who could own slaves and who could work for free people of color?

## Students Entering English IH

---Students must read the required book and a book of their choice from the following list:

### **Required Book**

*I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou

**Choices for Students Entering English IH—Choose one.**

*Night Fire* by Ronnie Greene

*Unbowed* by Wangari Maathai

Prompt: Compare and contrast struggles for environmental justice that people of color face in yours or surrounding communities with the struggles faced by either Margie Richard's or Wangari Maathai's struggles to protect the air, water, food, and soil in their respective communities based on your book choice.

## Students Entering English II

---Students must read the required book and a book of their choice from the following list:

### **Required Book**

*The Farming of Bones* by Edwidge Danticat

**Choices for Students Entering English II—Choose one.**

*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe

*A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry

Prompt for *Things Fall Apart*: Are there any folktales or stories that we tell in New Orleans to explain the unexplainable or unbearable or unimaginable? Compare the story of the locusts in *Things Fall Apart* to any stories unique to your city, neighborhood, community, family, or church.

Prompt for *A Raisin in the Sun*: Have you ever had to make an important decision about money? If you and your family received a large sum of money from an inheritance and the will included the entire family, would the money be split democratically or would a particular family member get to decide? In what ways would this make your family feel liberated? In what ways would this cause tension? Compare your point of view to the decisions the characters in Lorraine Hansberry's play make.

## Students Entering English III

---Students must read the required book and a book of their choice from the following list:

### **Required Book**

*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe

**Choices for Students Entering English III—Choose one.**

*Beloved* by Toni Morrison

*The Pearl* by John Steinbeck

Prompt for *Beloved*: In an essay, discuss the relationships between the slave mothers of the book and their children. How are they during slavery? How are they after slavery?

Prompt for *The Pearl*: In an essay, explain how the significance of the pearl changes from the beginning of the book to the end. Cite examples from the text to support your claims.

## Students Entering English III

---Students must read the required book and a book of their choice from the following list:

### **Required Book**

*A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines  
**Choices for Students Entering English III—Choose one.**  
*Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison  
*For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Ernest Hemingway

Prompt for *Song of Solomon*: In the novel, Morrison alludes to many fairy tales, including “Rumpelstiltskin,” “Sleeping Beauty,” and “Hansel and Gretel.” Read one of these fairy tales, then write an essay explaining how the fairy tale relates to the themes presented in the novel.

Prompt for *For Whom The Bell Tolls*: In an essay, discuss the religious theme of the novel as it pertains to the characters Jordan, Anselmo, and Joaquin.



## Students Entering English IIIH

---Students must read the required book and a book of their choice from the following list:

### **Required Book**

*The Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison

**Choices for Students Entering English IIIH—Choose one.**

*A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams

*The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Prompt for *A Street Car Named Desire*: Despite Blanche's past life, her deceit, and her manipulation of the other characters, readers and viewers of the play tend to sympathize and align themselves with her. In an essay, explain how this emotional reaction can be justified by identifying and describing of three instances from the novel.

Prompt for *The Great Gatsby*: Throughout the novel, Gatsby has difficulty accepting that the past is over and he must move on. Cite evidence that shows he is trying to capture the past. Explain what it says about him, and should people have a yearning for something in the past or not.

## Students Entering English IV

---Students must read the required book and a book of their choice from the following list:

### **Required Book**

*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte

**Choices for Students Entering English IV—Choose one.**

*The Picture of Dorian Grey* by Oscar Wilde

*Othello* by William Shakespeare

*Emma* by Jane Austen

Prompt for *The Picture of Dorian Gray*: In an essay, discuss the role of innocence as it pertains to Sibyl Vance, Hetty Merton, and Dorian himself.

Prompt for *Othello*: In an essay, discuss how age, social position, and race impact the relationship between Othello and Desdemona. Cite examples from the text to support your claim.

Prompt for *Emma*: In an essay, consider in order the instances when Emma arrives at some degree of knowledge. Relate these instances to the plot pattern.

## Students Entering English IVH

---Students must read the required book and a book of their choice from the following list:

### **Required Book**

*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

**Choices for Students Entering English IVH—Choose one.**

*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte

*Hamlet* by William Shakespeare

*A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens

Prompt for *Jane Eyre*: In an essay, compare and contrast the characters of Rodchester and St. John Rivers. What were their strengths and weaknesses? Why does Jane choose Rodchester over St. John?

Prompt for *Hamlet*: In an essay, identify the three revenge plots in Hamlet, and explain why each is important to the development of the play.

Prompt for *A Tale of Two Cities*: In an essay, discuss how the character Sydney Carton changes from the beginning of the novel to the end. Cite examples from the text to support your claims.