



Pre-AP Freshman English (GIS)

Leonardtoun High School

Our high school Pre-AP courses are specifically designed to meet the needs of students reading and writing above grade level. This includes reading and analyzing complex above-grade-level texts, engaging in advanced research and writing activities, and learning and applying higher-level literary terminology, vocabulary, and analysis. SMCPS accelerated courses will provide students with strategies and tools they need to engage in advanced, high-level learning to develop the skills, habits of mind, and concepts necessary to succeed in advanced placement courses and achieve college readiness.

Each nine-week instructional unit will be anchored by one or two assigned extended texts related to the unit theme, all of which students will be expected to “actively” read (i.e. take notes, underline, ask questions, etc.). Students will have access to these texts within the classroom; however, students are encouraged to have their own copies of the required texts next year, which will allow them to practice text annotation, read and re-read the texts outside of class, and reference them on culminating writing assessments. Many of these titles are available electronically.

Summer activities to prepare for your Pre-AP GIS experience:

1 Start your summer enrichment activity, which is **due at the end of the second week of school.**

2 Read additional books; several recommended lists are posted on the [SMCPS Summer Reading Website](#).

3 Parents: review copies of the planned required texts for next year.

Summer Enrichment Activity

The first extended text assigned at the start of the school year will be a project based on the novel *Anthem*. Complete the following as a summer enrichment activity to be prepared for the school year:

- Read Ayn Rand’s novel *Anthem*.
- Annotate (either by writing in the margins their own texts, using sticky notes on the pages, or on a piece of paper) for the following ideas: *the power of language and the symbolism of light*.

*Whether you purchase or borrow the book from the library, students are expected to have copies of the books with them at the start of the school year. You can use a [digital copy](#) of Ayn Rand’s *Anthem*, obtain a copy from a previous GIS student, borrow one from the public library, or [purchase](#) a copy.*

Required extended texts for the course **MAY** include titles from this list:

- Anthem*
by Ayn Rand
 - Siddhartha*
by Hermann Hesse
 - Beowulf*
(Seamus Heaney translation)
 - Selections from The Canterbury Tales*
by Geoffrey Chaucer (the version translated by Nevill Coghill)
 - Catcher in the Rye*
by J.D. Salinger
 - Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*
by Maxine Hong Kingston
 - In the Time of the Butterflies*
by Julia Alvarez
 - The Kite Runner*
By Khaled Hosseini
 - 1984*
by George Orwell
- Other than *Anthem*, do NOT read these books over the summer break. Individual teachers will send home a syllabus at the beginning of the year that will state the required texts.**

More information about the accelerated/Pre-AP vertical program is posted on the SMCPS website; [click here](#) for the vertically aligned content for all ACC and Pre-AP courses. Any questions or concerns regarding the course content or expectations can be directed to Michelle Gallant-Wall, Supervisor of Instruction at mjgallantwall@smcps.org.