



# Pre-AP Freshman English

## 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 two assigned extended texts and one self-selected, independent reading choice related to the unit theme, all of which students will be expected to “actively” read (i.e. take notes, underline, ask questions, etc.). With the exception of the self-selected independent reading, 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 experience:

**1** Start reading your self-selected independent reading book for Unit One, which will be **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.

**SSR choice titles include (select ONE):**  
*In the Time of Butterflies*+ (Julia Alvarez); *Speak*+ (Laurie Halse Anderson); *Emma*\* (Jane Austen); *The Chocolate War*+ (Robert Cormier); *Great Expectations*\* (Charles Dickens); *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*+ (Jonathan Safran Foer); *Stardust*\*\* (Neil Gaiman); *Bee Season: A Novel*\*\*+ (Myla Goldberg); *The Princess Bride* (William Goldman); *Paper Towns*+ (John Green); *The Cider House Rules*\*+\*\* (John Irving); *Shutter Island*\*\* (Dennis Lehane); *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*\*+ (Ken Kesey); *A River Runs Through It*\* (Norman Maclean); *All the Pretty Horses*\*+ (Cormac McCarthy); *The Road*\* (Cormac McCarthy); *We Were the Mulvaney*\*+ (Joyce Carol Oates ); *The Lovely Bones*+ (Alice Sebold); *The Martian*\*\* (Andy Weir); *Rebecca* (Daphne du Maurier)

\* Cited on AP Literature Exam  
\*\* Not on the SMCPS Approved Novels list  
+ Mature content

We encourage parents and students to investigate and discuss the book options together in order to make the most appropriate choice; some titles may include mature content.

### Required extended texts for the course will include titles from this list:

**Unit 1**  
*Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd or *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett and one of these plays: *The Crucible*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Piano Lesson*, *Fences*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*

**Unit 2**  
*Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger and ONE of the following: *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith, *All the Pretty Horses* by Cormac McCarthy, *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier, *Challenger Deep* by Neal Shusterman

**Unit 3**  
*The Grapes of Wrath* or *Of Mice and Men* and Steinbeck Literature circle/author study and ONE of the following: *Outcasts United* by Warren St. John or Nonfiction Literature Circles

**Unit 4**  
*The Lord of the Flies* by William Golding and ONE of the following: *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller, *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston, *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

**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 [migallantwall@smcps.org](mailto:migallantwall@smcps.org).