

# English 12

## Summer Reading Assignments

*No sources, other than the sources listed on this assignment handout, may be consulted for this assignment.*

1. **Read** *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon. Complete the reading assignment on this page.
2. **Choose a second book from the assignment on the next page, and follow the instructions.**
3. **Be prepared** to participate in discussions, take a reading comprehension quiz, and to write an in-class essay on the summer reading during the first week of school.
4. **Bring BOTH the required and choice summer reading books to class on the first day.** Remember: Purchase a fresh hard copy of both books; previously annotated novels or downloaded versions are not acceptable.

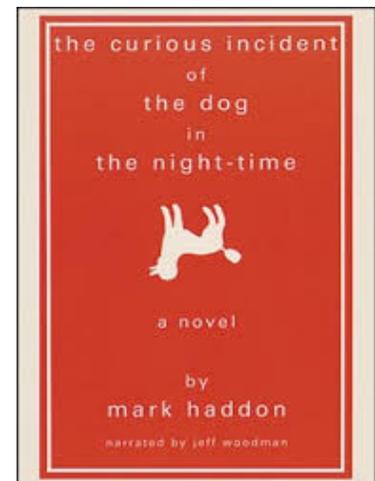
**A word about annotating: We will discuss this more when school begins, but I'm simply looking for obvious signs of active reading that indicate engagement and attention to the text. This can take many forms and, most likely, not all one approach (underlining/highlighting, notes, questions, comments, end of chapter notes, theme topic numbering or colors or tabs, etc.).**

### Questions?

AP English 12 Summer Reading Contact:  
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## *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon

Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years. (from *Amazon*)



**Read the novel and annotate the text (see below). When school begins, bring your copy of *Curious Incident* to class the first day, having finished your reading and annotation. There will be an annotation grade and a content reading quiz followed later by discussions and a written response.**

In reading this novel, annotate especially for two things:

1. Christopher is a different kind of person – figure out how he's both annoying and endearing.
2. He goes on a quest, a journey, with a specific goal in mind. But what challenges does he face and what does he learn on the way about himself and his world?

And one note: There are some British words here that may be unfamiliar to you. Circle them and we'll discuss.

## Reading Assignment #2

Choose ONE of the novels listed below, and follow the instructions. (Descriptions from Amazon.)

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1. **Annotate for at least TWO of the universal literary conflicts:** man vs. man; man vs. society; man vs. self; man vs. God/gods/fate; man vs. technology; man vs. nature. Hint: you will be writing about both topics, so choose wisely.

*Please note: The goal here, really, is for you to just enjoy reading a good book over the summer. To that end, try to avoid simply opting for the shortest one or for the one your friends pick. Instead, spend a few minutes pondering and researching your own choice. And, of course, you are free to read more than one!*

1. ***Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks:** When an infected bolt of cloth carries plague from London to an isolated village, a housemaid named Anna Frith emerges as an unlikely heroine and healer. Through Anna's eyes we follow the story of the fateful year of 1666, as she and her fellow villagers confront the spread of disease and superstition. As Anna struggles to survive and grow, a year of catastrophe becomes instead annus mirabilis, a "year of wonders." ... Inspired by the true story of Eyam, a village in the rugged hill country of England, *Year of Wonders* is a richly detailed evocation of a singular moment in history. Brooks blends love and learning, loss and renewal into a spellbinding and unforgettable read.
2. ***In the Time of Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez:** It is November 25, 1960, and three beautiful sisters have been found near their wrecked Jeep at the bottom of a 150-foot cliff on the north coast of the Dominican Republic. The official state newspaper reports their deaths as accidental. It does not mention that a fourth sister lives. Nor does it explain that the sisters were among the leading opponents of Gen. Rafael Leonidas Trujillo's dictatorship.
3. ***Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen:** In a remote Hertfordshire village, a country squire of no great means must marry off his five vivacious daughters. At the heart of this enterprise are his headstrong second daughter Elizabeth Bennet and her aristocratic suitor Fitzwilliam Darcy — two lovers whose pride must be humbled and prejudices dissolved before the novel can come to its splendid conclusion. One of the most universally loved and admired English novels.
4. ***City of Thieves* by David Benioff:** During the Nazis' siege of Leningrad, Lev Beniov is arrested for looting and thrown into the same cell as a deserter named Kolya. Instead of being executed, Lev and Kolya are given a shot at saving their lives by complying with an outrageous directive: secure a dozen eggs for a powerful Soviet colonel to use in his daughter's wedding cake. A gripping, World War II adventure with an utterly contemporary feel for how boys become men.

*(List continues on the next page.)*

5. ***Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte:** Although the poor but plucky heroine is outwardly of plain appearance, she possesses an indomitable spirit, a sharp wit and great courage. She is forced to battle against a cruel guardian, a harsh employer and a rigid social order -- all of which come into play when she becomes governess to the daughter of the mysterious, sardonic and attractive Mr. Rochester. Ranks as one of the greatest and most perennially popular works of English fiction.
6. ***The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver:** A story told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist missionary who takes his family to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them everything they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it -- from garden seeds to Scripture -- is transformed on African soil. A suspenseful epic of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction over the course of three decades in postcolonial Africa.
7. ***Last Days of Night* by Graham Moore:** From the Oscar-winning screenwriter of *The Imitation Game* comes a novel—based on actual events—about the nature of genius and the cost of ambition. A young untested lawyer named Paul Cravath, fresh out of Columbia Law School, takes a case that seems impossible to win. Paul's client, George Westinghouse, has been sued by Thomas Edison over a billion-dollar question: Who invented the light bulb and holds the right to power the country?
8. ***The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger:** The influential and widely acclaimed story details two days in the life of 16-year-old Holden Caulfield after he has been expelled from prep school. Confused and disillusioned, he searches for truth and rails against the "phoniness" of the adult world. He ends up exhausted and emotionally ill, in a psychiatrist's office. After he recovers from his breakdown, Holden relates his experiences to the reader.





