



Junior Honors English 2020-2021 Summer Assignments

Welcome to Junior Honors English,

This is a class where we will evaluate the thoughts, motives, dreams, and perspectives of Americans throughout various genres of literature that were written during pivotal times in our nation's history. While our class will draw on America's past, your summer-assignment list is relatively current.

This year's class themes have the potential to intersect every person in our classroom, as well as our nation. As you read, be thinking about **uncertainty, relationships, resilience, hope, fortitude, and the concept of the American Dream**. Below you will find sources related to these themes along with a writing assignment.

[Video Explanation](#)

Join the Google Classroom:

- <https://classroom.google.com/> Code: **2k5ftpe**

Read over the Writing Assignment:

- The writing assignment is a synthesis essay. The prompt and directions as well as suggestions are on Google Classroom. It is due **before** the first day of school. This is your Summer Assessment. Please read over the requirements **before** you start reading and viewing. This essay will be the springboard for teaching writing and revision. Strive to do well.

View a 6-minute Ted Talk:

- Listen to Angela Lee Duckworth (2013) and her theory on "grit" as a predictor for success. Ms. Duckworth mentions the documentary, *Spellbound*, that you are also asked to view this summer. https://www.ted.com/talks/angela_lee_duckworth_grit_the_power_of_passion_and_perseverance#t-351413

View a Documentary:

- *Spellbound* (2002), directed by Jeffery Blitz follows eight quirky middle school students from a variety of regions in the United States as well as a variety of backgrounds, as they study to compete in the National Spelling Bee. *Spellbound* is available for streaming from a wide variety of sources.

Read a Current Novel:

- *American Dirt*, by Jeanine Cummins (2019). This is the story of a mother and her young son, who embark on a journey that may cost them everything, in exchange for a glimmer of hope.

Read a Memoir:

- *The Last Lecture*, by Randy Pausch (2008). Every person's greatest obstacle is the inability to escape death. When the author wrote this account, he had recently been diagnosed with terminal cancer. His memoir, though, is not about dying. It is about living. We can all learn something from Randy Pausch's final "lecture."