

**Alexander Hamilton High School**  
Summer Reading Log Questions  
Grades 9-12

In addition to your notes, please answer the following questions in complete paragraph form on loose leaf. You may also type your answers. Be prepared to submit your answers and your notes when you return to school.

1. What is the TAG (title, author, and genre) of your work?
2. Research (online) information about the author of the book and provide a brief biography. Please list your sources.
3. Describe the setting of your book (time and place). Does your book take place during a specific period in history? If so, briefly describe the historical context of your book.
4. From what point of view is the story told? How would the story change if it was told from a different perspective?
5. What are the main themes, or messages, of your book? Support your answer with details from the book.
6. List and explain at least TWO essential quotes from your book. Why did you choose them? Are they meaningful to the themes of the book? Explain.
7. Who is your favorite character in the book? Characterize him/her. Why do you like this character?
8. Who is your least favorite character in the book? Characterize him/her. Why do you dislike this character?
9. Describe the main literary techniques used by the author of your book. Are there symbols or motifs in your book? Are there foil characters? Does the author use vivid imagery to describe specific scenes or events in your book? Does your author use irony? Give examples to support your answers.
10. If you could change one event or character in your book, what would you change? Why?
11. After reading this book, why would you recommend it to another reader? What elements “stand out” to you as important or essential?

# Summer Reading



## Grade 12

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<http://elmsd.org>  
<http://hamilton.elmsd.org>

In an effort to promote a life-long love of reading, the English department requires each student to complete a yearly summer-reading project. **In addition to at least ONE of your own independent reading selections, please choose ONE work of literature from the appropriate grade-level list.** We strongly encourage you to choose a book that you would like to discuss with a friend or a group as you read. You must take notes as you read and submit the required questions. When you return in September, you will be asked to complete a project on your chosen reading selections. We hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer. Happy reading!

***Acceleration***

by **Graham McNamee**

While working in the Lost and Found of the Toronto Transit Authority for the summer, Duncan finds the diary of a serial killer and sets out to stop him.

***Wuthering Heights***

by **Emily Bronte**

Catherine is drawn to Heathcliff, a mysterious gypsy orphan whom her father brings home from the streets of London to live with them.

***Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster***

by **Jon Krakauer**

In a thrilling and descriptive account, a journalist recounts a tragic climbing expedition on Mount Everest.

***Things Fall Apart***

by **Chinua Achebe**

The arrival of missionaries and representatives of the colonial government in Okonkwo's Nigerian village completely disrupts Ibo culture.

***Antigone***

by **Sophocles**

After Oedipus steps down from the throne in despair, his kingdom erupts into civil war and his sons are killed in a bloody duel. When the new king, Creon, refuses to bury one of the brothers, Antigone, the daughter of Oedipus, must seek justice on her family's behalf.

***Annie John***

by **Jamaica Kincaid**

Annie John tells the tale of a family's disintegration. Told from the perspective of Annie, age ten when the novel starts and a young adult by its end, the story revolves around Annie's transformation from an adoring, obedient child to a rebellious, hardheaded outcast within her own home.

***My Sister's Keeper***

by **Jodi Picoult**

Anna was genetically engineered to be a perfect match for her cancer-ridden older sister. Since birth, the 13-year-old has donated platelets, blood, her umbilical cord, and bone marrow as part of her family's struggle to lengthen Kate's life.

***The Road***

by **Cormac McCarthy**

A man and his son travel the long and exhausting journey to stay alive after a terrible earth-wide cataclysm.

***One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest***

by **Ken Kesey**

In a humorous and rebellious account, the novel follows the exploits of an inmate of a mental institution who tries to find the freedom and independence denied him in the outside world.

***The Last Shot: City Streets, Basketball Dreams***

by **Frey Darcy**

For many adolescents on Coney Island, basketball is their only escape from the urban hell of poverty, crime, and drugs. *The Last Shot* chronicles a group of teenagers playing for one of the best teams in New York, the Abraham Lincoln Secondary School Railsplitters.