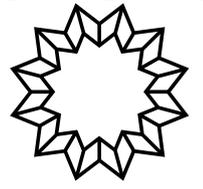


English II Honors



English II Honors is more academically challenging than regular English II. Therefore, students are expected to be highly motivated with an excellent work ethic. You will have to put in a substantial amount of time outside of class on reading and homework. You will be rewarded with improved reading and writing skills as well as the weighted GPA points. You must be willing to work independently and in groups, tackle challenging work, and complete summer reading. This class requires verbal participation in the form of class discussions and seminars, so make sure you're ready to speak up in class.

Summer Reading requirements

Both novels must be read before the first day of school. No annotations are required for the summer books. There will be essays and tests on these books the first few weeks of school. It is recommended for you to purchase your own copies; however, you may stop by GBHS to borrow school copies.

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The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

Overview: A "mystical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. His quest will lead him to riches far different—and far more satisfying—than he ever imagined. Santiago's journey teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, of recognizing opportunity and learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, most importantly, to follow our dreams." - *Amazon*

Areas (Ideas/ Themes) to focus on: Communication, Language, Love, Warfare, Fate, Free Will, Fear, Dreams, Wisdom, Humanity, Natural World

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

Overview: "When Lily's fierce-hearted "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the town's fiercest racists, Lily decides they should both escape to Tiburon, South Carolina - a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. There, they are taken in by an eccentric trio of Black beekeeping sisters who introduce Lily to a mesmerizing world of bees, honey, and the Black Madonna who presides over their household." - *Amazon*

Areas (Ideas/ Themes) to focus on: Mother-daughter relationships; intolerance; cultural differences; prejudice; Forgiveness; Female power; sisterhood; faith