



Form I Summer Reading Expectations 2019

Dear Entering Form I Students:

I am so excited to have you all in Form I English next year, as you continue your journey through Shady Side Academy Middle School. Summer is almost here, when you will have plenty of time to explore some new texts. Hopefully, these will serve not only to entertain you over the holiday but also to enrich your understanding of yourself and the world that surrounds you.

You are required to read four books from this list: the all-form book, *The Outsiders*, and three others. Your three self-selected books must be from at least two different genres. During the summer, you will also be responsible for completing four mini-projects, one for *The Outsiders* and one for each choice title. We will kick-start the year by sharing your projects and discussing the choice books. It is not necessary to bring copies of your choice summer reading books to school, so feel free to borrow your three selections from the library. After discussing our choice novels, we will plunge into an in-depth academic study of *The Outsiders*. With this in mind, please make sure that you purchase *The Outsiders* and bring it with you at the start of the year. We will use the Platinum edition published by Speak with the ISBN 978-0142407332, and we will refer to page numbers from this edition during our classwork.

Those of you who worked with Mrs. Onest in sixth grade English spent a lot of time considering the big question, “What is identity?” Next year in Form I English, we will explore the question, “What is empathy?” Empathy, the ability to imagine someone else’s situation, sounds simple but is a creative and complex part of being human. As you read your summer books, begin to think about how this concept might connect to them—and to your life.

The Form I Summer Reading List and the Form I Summer Reading Mini-Project Assignment Sheet can be found on the Shady Side Academy website at www.shadysideacademy.org/summerinfo. They can also be viewed through the Parent Portal and on the page for newly enrolled families at www.shadysideacademy.org/welcome. Additionally, I encourage you to consult websites such as Amazon.com or Goodreads.com, which offer summaries, reviews, and sample pages. The website Commonsensemedia.org might also be helpful in determining if a book’s content is suitable.

Enjoy your summer and happy reading,

Mrs. Cannon
Form I English Teacher