



CITY HONORS SCHOOL  
SUMMER READING 2018

# Entering Grade 9



## What our ELA faculty expects you to read this summer

Choose **ONE** of the following works to read:

*The Alchemist*

Paulo Coelho (any edition)

*Speak*

Laurie Halse Anderson (any edition)

## Why we expect you to complete this reading

Literature exposes us to human experience. At times, literature reminds us that our emotions are shared and understood by all humans; at other times, literature awakens us to unfamiliar worlds, creating empathy for otherness. While you are working on this summer reading list, you should also read other things independently. Our best advice is to read as many novels and plays as you can. Read often; read well. Become curious about literature and texts. Explore genres you have not read, by authors with which you are unfamiliar, about cultures you have yet to understand. Be a voracious scholar of books, articles, podcasts, lectures, art and film. *Pay attention to detail.* Take time to learn about an author's background and the time/place from which she or he was writing. Allow yourself to enjoy the art of literature.

## What you should do before you read these texts

Get a composition notebook. This will serve as your journal for the summer (see below) and this year.

## What you should do while you are reading

It is expected that you annotate or keep notes on what you read, for both literary elements and authorial choices, even if annotations are not "checked" or "graded." Annotations are essential in discussing and writing about literature. Be thoughtful about your notes; they are preparation to share your findings/insights through a variety of responses.

## How we will make use of the reading when we return to school

In September, you will complete an in-class essay on the book you have read. We will also use this text in class discussion and for brief analysis exercises. Your annotated text and/or notes will be useful in completing these assignments.

## Additional things you need to succeed in English Language Arts for the upcoming school year

It is highly beneficial for students in the CHS English Department to have strong knowledge of texts that are foundational to Western literature. We recommend that students are knowledgeable of allusions to Greek and Roman mythology as well as the Bible as literature. *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton is a useful text. Familiarizing yourself with stories from both the New and Old Testament in the Bible is also recommended.

## Whom to contact for questions

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