



In Conroe ISD, we encourage all students to read over the summer in order to enrich learning and provoke thought. Summer reading strengthens reading skills, increases academic achievement, fosters a love for reading, and empowers students to become lifelong learners. Additionally, students who enroll in a Pre-AP or AP English course are expected to engage in summer reading as it prepares students for the upcoming school year and creates an initial common framework for classroom discussion and instruction.

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## Pre-AP English I Summer Reading Assignment: Oak Ridge Ninth Grade

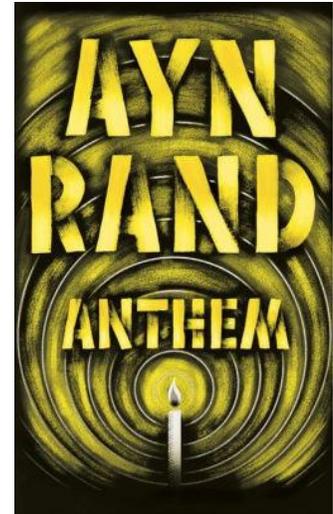
Dear future students,

We have carefully prepared this summer reading assignment for you to best prepare for the transition to high school this fall. You will read one fictional story, a novel titled **Anthem**, which challenges the concept of identity. Then, you will also select **one book from the choice list** (see Parent Note\*) of true stories about individuals who challenged themselves to discover who they are and how they affect their worlds.

Happy Reading! We look forward to discussing these soon!

### Your Task:

1. **Read** *Anthem* by Ayn Rand
2. **Read** your choice from the nonfiction book list (see list)
3. **Answer** the following questions after you read each book in 5-10 sentences each:
  - a. What stood out to you about the way the story was told/written?
  - b. Why do you think the author included those specific details, moments, or characters?
  - c. What message(s) does this book convey about identity?

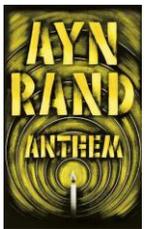


### *\*Parent Note:*

Please exercise discernment in selecting your choice book. You and your parents are responsible for learning about the book choices and selecting a book which your family deems appropriate.

### Summer Reading Books

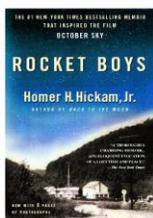
**Fiction:** Everyone will read *Anthem* by Ayn Rand



#### *Anthem* by Ayn Rand

A powerful story with unique narration, Ayn Rand tells the story from the perspective of “we.” The story takes place in a dystopian society where people are no longer recognized as individuals, only as part of a collective, a group. The protagonist struggles to determine how to live in his society where his abilities, desires, and future are decided for him. If you are viewed nothing more than a part of a group, do you even have an identity?

**Nonfiction:** Select ONE book from this list:



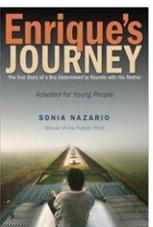
### ***Rocket Boys* by Homer Hickam**

A memoir from Homer Hickam, this novel is about Homer “Sonny’s” life as a teenager in the coal mining town of Coalwood. His father is the superintendent of the mine and expects Sonny to become an engineer in order to join the coal mining company. However, Sonny has other plans as he discovers rockets, and, with the help of his friends, learns how to build their very own rockets that will eventually get them out of their small town and into a better life.



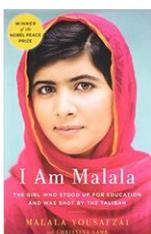
### ***The Boys who Challenged Hitler* by Phillip Hoose**

A thrilling story about a real-life group of young teens that decided to take their country's identity into their own hands. The backdrop is Denmark at the start of World War II. Nazi forces were piling into the country, but the Danish government chose not to fight the invasion. The protagonist, Knud Pedersen, and a group of his friends realized that if the government would not stop the Nazis, then perhaps, they could. Armed with bicycles and the desire to make a difference, the boys - dubbed the Churchill Club - hit the streets of Denmark and began to systematically destroy the enemy from the inside-out. The Churchill Club made such an impact that Germany eventually declared Denmark "enemy territory". This is a powerful and true account of how the young are capable of claiming their identity and inciting a change that can greatly impact society.



### ***Enrique's Journey (The Young Adult Adaptation): The True Story of a Boy Determined to Reunite with his Mother* by Sonia Nazario**

Enrique, a teenage boy, leaves Honduras on a quest to find his mother. Hoping to provide for her family by finding a new job and earning more money, Enrique's mother left Honduras while he was a young child to find work in the United States. Enrique's story conveys the challenges migrant lives and the life-altering decisions that must be made in order to survive.



### ***I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood up for Education and was Shot by the Taliban* by Malala Yousafzai (original publication or *The Young Adult Adaptation*)**

This book tells the powerful story of Malala's life. At first simply a young girl in Pakistan, Malala's bravery places her in harm's way where she courageously makes a statement to the world about the value of education. Following, the course of her life changes forever as she is asked to visit the United Nations and becomes the spokesperson for the importance of girls' education.

If you have any questions about your assignment, please contact the Pre-AP English I teacher listed below:

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