

## Freshmen Summer Reading Requirements (2019)

Required summer reading books are part of the English program at Gloucester Catholic. As such, students will be discussing and writing about these books early in the school year in their English classes. In addition, they will be tested on them during the first few days of classes in September or have a project due on the first day of class. The combined scores of the tests/projects on the required books will be used as a major test grade in computing their first quarter grades. Summer reading books are carefully chosen to integrate well with the English curriculum and they offer students high interest and challenging, yet reasonable, reading level.

Reading one or more extra credit books is highly encouraged, especially for college bound students. Students who choose to read extra credit books will be tested on a pass-fail basis and will receive extra credit toward their first quarter English grade.

### English 1 & English 1 Honors Required Reading:

1. *I'm Just Me*- M.G Higgins----- Reading Comprehension Test
2. *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*- Rick Riordan----- Essay

### Extra Credit:

*A Separate Peace*.....John Knowles  
*The Diary of Anne Frank*..... Anne Frank  
*The Outsiders*..... S.E. Hinton  
*The Pigman*..... Paul Zindel  
*To Kill A Mockingbird*.....Harper Lee

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1. Students must read *I'm Just Me* by M.G Higgins and be prepared to take a reading comprehension test during the first week of school.
  2. Students must read *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan and compose a five paragraph essay outlined below.

(OVER)

### **Epic Hero Essay: *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief***

An **epic hero** is defined as a brave and noble character admired for great achievements or affected by grand events. There are five common traits of an epic hero:

1. The hero is helped or hindered by the gods
2. The hero is given a quest
3. The hero receives help from mythical beings
4. The hero's travels take him/her to a supernatural world
5. The hero reaches a low point, but overcomes it

**Prompt:** Compose a five paragraph essay proving that Percy Jackson is an epic hero throughout the novel.

### **FORMAT**

Your essay must include the following information:

**Introduction-** Your introduction paragraph should include background information and a clear thesis statement identifying which traits will be explored in your essay.

**Body-** Your body paragraphs should clearly pose and answer the questions and themes stated in the prompt. Choose (3) three epic hero traits to explore in your essay with each of your (3) three body paragraphs exploring an epic hero trait. **Your body paragraphs must also include quotations or evidence from the text.** Be sure to clearly state the "epic hero trait," explain the trait fully as it occurs in the novel, and include quotations and textual support.

**Conclusion-** Your conclusion should restate your argument and stance posed in your Introduction.

**Works Cited Page-** Your Works Cited page should include the novel *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*. This should be a separate page after your essay.

**MLA Format-** Your essay should be composed in size 12, Times New Roman font. Paragraphs should be double spaced with 1 inch margins.

For further guidance on MLA requirements visit:

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/mla\\_a\\_general\\_format.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_a_general_format.html)