



2021 Advanced Academics Summer Study

Pre-AP English I

Aledo ISD Advanced ELAR courses are focused on College Board's Areas of Focus for English classes: **reading closely**, **valuing evidence**, and **noticing language choices**. Our Pre-AP and AP Summer Studies were designed with these focal points in mind. All students enrolled in advanced ELAR courses are required to choose at least ONE text from a list of titles curated for their literary value and the author's purpose and craft evident in the text. Each course's summer study also contains a highly recommended accompanying task designed to support the reader's practice of College Board's Areas of Focus. Students will be asked to use their resulting deep understanding of texts read over the summer in classroom discussion and compositions during the first unit of instruction and throughout the 2021-22 school year.

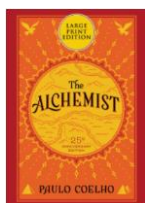
-Staci Hammer, ELAR Curriculum Specialist, Aledo ISD

Text Choices-Please select ONE title from the list of four below.

Note: Each of the suggested texts below reflect one of the following themes or topics, which heavily influences Pre-AP English I coursework:

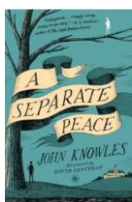
- Coming of Age
- New Beginnings
- Valuing Diversity
- The Hero's Journey

**Some of these titles may contain mature language and/or situations. Select the text with which you are most comfortable.*



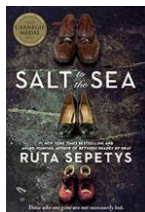
The Alchemist, by Paulo Coelho

Paulo Coelho's masterpiece tells the 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.



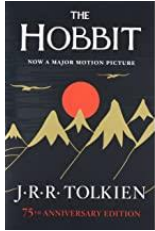
A Separate Peace, by John Knowles

Set in a boys' boarding school in New England during the early years of World War II, *A Separate Peace* is a harrowing and luminous parable of the dark side of adolescence. Gene is a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas is a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What happens between the two friends one summer, like the war itself, banishes the innocence of these boys and their world.



Salt to the Sea, by Ruta Sepetys

Winter 1945. WWII. Four refugees. Four stories. Each one born of a different homeland; each one hunted, and haunted, by tragedy, lies, war. As thousands desperately flock to the coast in the midst of a Soviet advance, four paths converge, vying for passage aboard the *Wilhelm Gustloff*, a ship that promises safety and freedom. But not all promises can be kept.



The Hobbit, by J.R.R. Tolkien

Written for J.R.R. Tolkien's own children, *The Hobbit* met with instant critical acclaim when it was first published in 1937. Now recognized as a timeless classic, this introduction to the hobbit Bilbo Baggins, the wizard Gandalf, Gollum, and the spectacular world of Middle-earth recounts of the adventures of a reluctant hero, a powerful and dangerous ring, and the cruel dragon Smaug the Magnificent.

Recommended Task—The following reading tasks will richly support your understanding of the text and allow you to prepare for using this text in classroom discussion and beginning of year composition assignments.

Quotes & Notes

Respond to your reading(s) through “Quotes and Notes” journal entries. For your chosen book, record at least ten crucial passages, and then develop your own response explaining why the passage is important.

Choose passages based on the following guidelines:

- A. Discuss two passages that describe the main character
- B. Discuss two passages that reveal the setting and establish the mood
- C. Discuss two passages that develop the plot (exposition, conflict, climax, resolution)
- D. Discuss two passages that communicate the theme
- E. Discuss two passages and the types of connections you made to that text, whether personal, to ideas in other texts, or to society.

Use the template linked below to complete this task digitally, or recreate this chart with at least ten rows on your own paper or on your own Google Document.

For example:

Quotation	Note/ Response
Cite a passage from the novel here, in quotation marks. Identify the page number.	Analyze the passage according to A, B, C, D, and E guidelines stated above. Use complete sentences and thoroughly explain the significance of the passage.

Once you have completed the recommended task:

Keep this document in your Google Drive in an English I folder or bring a hard copy to class. This will be a valuable resource during the opening unit of Pre-AP English I: *The Powerful Opening*, which explores how authors develop complex, yet believable characters and design settings in which those characters interact. You will be encouraged to incorporate evidence from your task into discussion and written work, as you develop your own text to self, text to text, text to world connections.

Here is the [digital version](#) of this assignment.