

**2023 Summer Reading Assignment–Enhanced English Language Arts 8**

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Welcome to Enhanced ELA 8. The goal of this course is to support students in preparing for college, career, and civic life through the development of critical reading and writing skills. Beyond the expectations of ELA 8, an additional goal is to prepare students for future studies in Advanced Placement and college.

Reading is like a muscle; you’ll only grow it if you work it out. As such, your summer reading is intended to provide you an opportunity to grow as a reader and prepare to flex that muscle during the school year.

For your summer reading assignment, you will **read *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton**. You are free to buy your own copy, but I have copies at the high school for you—I’ll leave copies for you in the high school office.

As you read the book, **keep a dialectical journal** documenting your thinking. This journal is a dialogue between you and the text—some summary and quoting is expected, but the bulk of the assessment will focus on your thoughts. I’ll provide an example of this kind of journal entry below. Use a spiral-bound notebook or a composition book—split each page in half.

You should complete and **submit the reading and journal to the high school office no later than 12:00 pm on August 1, 2023**.

You should expect a series of assessments over the reading when we return to school in the fall. This will include, at a minimum, a timed writing prompt dealing with one or more major themes of the book.

If you have any questions or want to discuss the assigned reading, reach out to me. I’ll be available via email all summer—but it may take a couple of days to respond.

I look forward to our work together in the Fall. Take care.

-Hall

Example of Dialectical Journal Entry:

Summaries and Quotes from the Text WITH PAGE NUMBERS	Response/Discussion
“We’re poorer than the Socs and the middle class. I reckon we’re wilder, too. Not like the Socs, who jump greasers and wreck houses...” (6)	Wow—he really doesn’t like those Socs. I wonder why he has so much hatred for them. It can’t be just because they are trouble makers because right after this he says that his friends are, too.