

# 2021 MJHS Summer Reading - English I Honors

Option 1: ***A Northern Light*** by Jennifer Donnelly

Option 2: ***ShipBreaker*** by Paolo Bacigalupi

Welcome to English I Honors! As an English I Honors student, you are required to complete **ONE** of the options above as summer reading. Please review the information below and be prepared to take a formal assessment over your chosen book during the first week of school. While you are allowed to read both (and both are excellent books to read), you will only take an assessment on **ONE** of them.

## Option 1: ***A Northern Light*** by Jennifer Donnelly

**The Story** - *A Northern Light* (*A Gathering Light* in the UK) is a coming-of-age story set against the backdrop of a true murder which took place in the Adirondacks in the summer of 1906.

It is 1906 and Mattie Gokey is trying to learn how to stand up like a man — even though she's a sixteen-year-old girl. At her summer job at a resort on Big Moose Lake in the Adirondack mountains, she will earn enough money to make something of her life. That money could be a dowry to wed the handsome but dull Royal Loomis. It could save her father's brokeback farm. Or it might buy her a train ticket to New York City and college and a life that she can barely allow herself to imagine.

**Awards** - Winner of the Carnegie Medal, the L.A. Times Book Prize, the Borders Original Voices Prize, and a Michael L. Printz Honor

(All information from [Jennifer Donnelly's website](#))

## Option 2: ***ShipBreaker*** by Paolo Bacigalupi

**The Story** - In this powerful novel, Paolo Bacigalupi delivers a thrilling, fast-paced adventure set in a vivid and raw, uncertain future.

In America's Gulf Coast region, where grounded oil tankers are being broken down for parts, Nailer, a teenage boy, works the light crew, scavenging for copper wiring just to make quota--and hopefully live to see another day. But when, by luck or chance, he discovers an exquisite clipper ship beached during a recent hurricane, Nailer faces the most important decision of his life: Strip the ship for all it's worth or rescue its lone survivor, a beautiful and wealthy girl who could lead him to a better life... ([GoodReads](#))

**Awards** - Finalist for the 2010 National Book Award for Young People's Literature and won the 2011 Michael L. Printz Award; Winner of the Locus Award for Best Young Adult Book; Nominee for the 2010 Andre Norton Award for Young Adult Science Fiction and Fantasy and was listed on American Library Association's Young Adult Library Services Association list: 2011 Top Ten Best Fiction for Young Adults list. ([Wikipedia](#))

## How do I obtain a copy of my book?

- You will need to obtain your own copy of the book you choose to read. While you can choose to purchase the book (consider Amazon, McKay's, etc...), you may want to check the local library as well as our school library to see if you can borrow a copy of the book (numbers are limited).
- If you are unable to afford a book or need help obtaining a copy, please contact the following people:
  - Kim Nizinski - [kim.nizinski@maryville-schools.org](mailto:kim.nizinski@maryville-schools.org) at MJHS during the summer.
  - Nichole Dzikus - [nichole.dzikus@maryville-schools.org](mailto:nichole.dzikus@maryville-schools.org) only during the end of the 20-21 school year.
  - Regina Cox - [regina.cox@maryville-schools.org](mailto:regina.cox@maryville-schools.org) at MJHS during the summer.

## How will I be assessed on summer reading?

- An objective test and writing test will be given during the first week of school. All students enrolled in English I honors on the first day of school will be expected to take this objective test.
  - **Questions about Enrollment?**
    - If you switch out of honors, but you were enrolled in honors through the summer and for the first day of school, you will still be expected to take the test, which will be recorded in your grades.
    - If you enroll in English I Honors over the summer, you will be given the summer reading information when you register. If you do not register for the course until school begins, you will have two weeks to complete the reading and take the test. A date for make-up tests will be announced during the first week of school. All make-up tests will be taken on the same day.
  - **Questions about the Test?**
    - The objective test will have a primary focus on understanding of plot, characters, and setting and a secondary focus on theme, point of view and basic analysis.
    - The writing test will have a primary focus on plot and character and a secondary focus on composition skills.

## How can I best prepare for the assessment?

- We suggest (but do not require) that you take notes while you read. Keep a list of key information: characters, settings, patterns, important events, themes.
- Please feel free to research your book on the Internet. While reading summaries of the book can help before you read or reviews of the book after you read, they cannot take the place of reading the book.

- If you know of a peer who is also enrolled in English I Honors, creating a study group is also another way to prepare.
- Read through this website on How to Read Closely - [Making Sense out of Novels](#). While this information is for college level students, much of it can be helpful for you as you read over the summer. Nothing presented in the article is required.
- See these graphic organizers for [Character](#). There are many examples, but most have similar information. If you are having trouble remembering the main characters well, one of these might help.

## **What else can I read over the summer?**

- Need some reading suggestions? Check out these [MJHS Freshmen Summer Reading Suggestions](#).

## **Further Questions?**

- Feel free to reach out to the following English teachers regarding summer reading questions. Please know that all teachers are on break during the summer and may not be available until the start of school.
  - Nichole Dzikus - [nichole.dzikus@maryville-schools.org](mailto:nichole.dzikus@maryville-schools.org)
  - Rebecca Watson - [rebecca.watson@maryville-schools.org](mailto:rebecca.watson@maryville-schools.org)
  - Whitney Schmidt - [whitney.schmidt@maryville-schools.org](mailto:whitney.schmidt@maryville-schools.org)