

The School for Creative and Performing Arts  
2020 English Summer Reading  
Grades 7-12

As English teachers, we each possess a love for reading and books. We would like to share this affinity with our students and encourage all of you to find books you enjoy. This summer's assignment is designed to inspire creativity while allowing you to find books that are accessible and engaging. Please choose one of the options below. Evidence of work is due the first week of the 2020-21 school year. You may also send evidence of work such as pictures and electronic files prior to the start of school. Have fun with the assignment and be creative. You will not be assessed on a test or an essay. Rather, the goal is that you are learning something through reading while feeding your creativity. The product must exhibit a thoughtful, consistent effort. As SCPA students you are held to artistic and performance standards that will ensure we are a world-class school.

English Teachers

- ★ Grade 7 - Pablo Casarez, [CasareP@cpsboe.k12.oh.us](mailto:CasareP@cpsboe.k12.oh.us)
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- ★ Grade 12 - Brittany Hansen, [HansenB@cpsboe.k12.oh.us](mailto:HansenB@cpsboe.k12.oh.us)

Option A: Choice Book and Journal

- 1) *Select and read a book of your choice.* You may choose a book from your shelf that you haven't had time to read. You can read something recommended by a friend, relative, or teacher. You might choose to read the book version of a movie you love. The genre is your choice, too! You can read science fiction, poetry anthologies, nonfiction, graphic novels, etc. Find something you will enjoy reading. Please use discretion when considering what is appropriate for discussion in school.
- 2) *Complete the journal entries.* (The journal options are at the end of this document.)

Option B: Choice Book and Creative Project

- 1) *Select and read a book of your choice.* (see above)
- 2) *Complete a creative project relative to a theme or idea in the book.* For example, if you read *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, you might create a quilt out of scrap fabric or scrapbook paper that incorporates symbols of the Underground Railroad. Or, you might write and record the soundtrack to the book. Maybe you would like to create the set design for the stage version of your book. Feel free to show your strengths from your art major, or explore another artistic area that you do not have the opportunity to try at SCPA.

Option C: Coursera Online Class

**\*This option is available for students in grades 8-12 only--you must contact the teacher for your incoming grade level to discuss this option.**

Coursera is a website offering hundreds of online university courses for free. There are many topics and challenge levels available. You do not need to pay for the certificate, but you must complete the course and provide evidence of learning and engagement. You can take screenshots of your work, print work, annotate articles and texts, etc. The courses and information can be found here:

<https://www.coursera.org/>

## Suggested Resources

- ★ *Project Gutenberg* - There are thousands of free ebooks available here:  
<https://www.gutenberg.org/>
- ★ *The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County* - The library is now accepting applications for library cards online. The teen center is very helpful. You can access materials and information here: <https://www.cincinnati-library.org/>
- ★ *The Ohio Digital Library* - This is another resource for ebooks found here:  
<https://ohdbks.overdrive.com/>
- ★ *Audible* - This app is offering audiobooks for free to students:  
<https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

## Creative Journal / Artist Notebook



In addition to reading your choice book, you will work to complete a creative journal with at least 20 entries. You will probably want to purchase a blank artist sketchbook for this. You should work to complete the journals throughout the summer and spend a minimum of 30 minutes on each one. Ideally, you use this as a way of exploring your own creativity in both mediums you are comfortable with and with ones that you are not. In other words, if you are comfortable writing poems--great, write poetry! But also work to complete tasks that challenge you. For example, you may choose prompt #10 that asks you to draw the same subject over and over.

Unleash your creativity and see where it takes you!

1. Spend one week completing Morning Pages. Morning Pages are 2-3 pages of stream of consciousness writing that is done first thing in the morning. The intention of this practice is that you allow anything or everything that crosses your mind to come to the page. Don't overthink these, just let them happen.
2. Collect 4-5 favorite quotes. Write them and even respond to them in a way that is visually pleasing. Maybe a quote or two comes from your choice book.
3. Try a blind contour drawing. This is a drawing where you draw the contour (outline) of a subject without looking. Do this for 3-4 items.
4. Use a page in your notebook to compile words, quotes, and collaged images to show the person you want to become. Write 4-5 sentences to explain if it feels necessary.
5. Draw a mandala. In their most basic forms, mandalas are circles contained within a square and arranged into sections that are all organized around a single, central point. They are usually intricately designed and visually pleasing. You could also take a more personal approach and follow these guidelines for creating one:  
<https://www.soul-flower.com/blog/how-to-draw-a-personalized-mandala/>

- Make a list and illustrate all the things for which you are grateful.



- Paste in a found photograph or picture of people from a magazine and write a fictional story of 2-3 pages about the people in the photo.
- Create a self-care list for yourself. What are all the things that you can do to make you feel happy, healthy, and comfortable? Also, pick one, do it, and reflect on the experience in 8-10 sentences.
- Write a letter/a poem to your 10-year old self. What would you want to tell your younger self? What advice would you give?
- Pick a subject and draw that thing over and over again. For example, birds:



- Jot down things you hear people say throughout the day and then create a found poem using some/all of what you hear. You could use texts if you get desperate.
- Draw a comic to something that has happened to you recently.
- Answer and expand on these 30 questions: <https://www.lavendaire.com/journaling-ideas/>
- Look through old magazines and make a collage. Allow yourself to use images you are attracted to (and even repulsed by) without overthinking what you pick. Be mindful and careful when cutting, arranging, and gluing images.
- Write a 1-2 page letter to someone you love, saying all the things you've been meaning to say for years.
- Research and make a list of free, low-cost, and/or pandemic safe things in your city/area you'd like to do. Try to have at least 20 items.
- Make an illustrated list of firsts: Your first friend, your first memory, your first job, your first drive, your first teacher, your first concert, the first thing you do in the morning, etc.
- Visually and/or in writing, respond to a challenge you personally face and/or society faces. The example below examines bullying, however, you could think about body image, racism, sexism,

homophobia, transphobia, climate change, etc.



19. Pick a song you like and visually represent it in your notebook. What you create could be a literal interpretation of the song or it could be more associative.
20. Pick a fictional character that you admire. “Fictional” includes someone from a novel, movie, TV/Netflix/Hulu show, etc. What do you admire about them? How are they similar to you? How are they different? You can write about this or visually represent your thoughts.
21. Leave your journal by your bed. Record and/or illustrate your dreams first thing in the morning. Even if you do not remember the full dream, record what you do.
22. Grab your summer reading book and randomly open it to any page. Read the first paragraph on that page and illustrate it.
23. Write down some of your life mantras such as, “Choose love. Follow your heart. Live in the moment.” Write them over and over again on your journal page, but use different lettering styles each time.
24. Write yourself a series of permission slips to stop doing things that you think you’re supposed to do, but you don’t want to do. For example, “You have permission to stop reading a book that you’re not enjoying.”
25. Draw a mind map of an idea you have. Here is an example of one that calls for a better world: <http://www.mindmapart.com/better-earth-mind-map-aditi-kovid/>
26. Gather and press flowers into the pages of your sketchbook. Once dried paste them in and design around them.
27. “I believe.” Brainstorm a list of six things that you seriously believe in, and another list of three silly or outrageous beliefs. Make another list of six rules for yourself: four as a person and two as a poet. Then add three statements of things you would never do. Stir them all together and see what happens.
28. Make a list of all the places you would like to travel. Pick one, research, and create the perfect day at that place.
29. Create a “currently” list. List and illustrate at least 10. Here is an example: <https://theawesomeladiesproject.com/currently/>
30. CHOOSE YOUR OWN!

Rubrics and Grading

This project will be worth a 100-point project grade in the first quarter.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Score of 5</b>	<b>Score of 4</b>	<b>Score of 3</b>	<b>Score of 2</b>
<b>Required Elements</b>	Goes over and above all the required elements stated in the directions/ instructions	Includes all of the required elements as stated in the directions/ instructions	Missing 25% or more of the required elements as stated in the directions/ instructions	Missing 50% or more of the required elements as stated in the directions/ instructions
<b>Creativity</b>	Exceptionally clever and unique in showing deep understanding	Thoughtfully and uniquely presented; clever at times in showing understanding of the material	A few original touches enhance the project to show some understanding of the material	Shows little creativity, originality and/or effort in understanding the material
<b>Neatness</b>	Exceptionally attractive and particularly neat in design and layout	Attractive and neat in design and layout	Acceptably attractive but may be messy at times and/or show lack of organization	Distractingly messy or very poorly designed. Does not show pride in work.
<b>Content Knowledge</b>	Shows a sophisticated understanding of the themes in the work	Shows an understanding of the major themes of the work	Displays a somewhat limited understanding of the work. May have a few accurate details.	Does not express an understanding of the text.

**Total Points:      /20 x 5 = Total Score:      /100**