



Harlan High School

SUMMER READING

Regular English I 2025-2026

Welcome to Regular English I! This class will focus largely on a reading and writing analysis, which examines the choices authors use to influence their audience and achieve their purpose.

Thus, with an eye toward eventual rhetorical analysis, students enrolled in English I are expected to choose **TWO** personal narrative short stories from the list below to read and study over the summer.

Please know that you are strongly encouraged to obtain your own copy of the short story to more easily annotate and interact with it as you read. **However, if you prefer, you may create a digital google doc for your annotations while reading an on-line copy of your chosen short story from the Harlan Summer Reading List. (below)**

Annotation can be especially helpful when studying a piece. It involves marking aspects of the text that you find important or influential, and making comments for yourself in order to remember why you marked what you did. Although your annotations will not be graded, they will help you prepare to perform an in-depth analysis over your chosen personal narrative short stories, as it is easier to relocate choices the author uses when you can simply read back over your comments to yourself, rather than re-reading the entire short story. Your summer reading assignment can be found [HERE](#).

Reading your chosen short story from this list will prepare you for:

- ☐ identifying key ideas in a text through examining the details an author uses
- ☐ analyzing the author's purpose, audience, and message when reading a variety of narrative texts
- ☐ analyzing specific rhetorical choices (tools/strategies/techniques) the author uses
- ☐ responding to your reading in a variety of ways to include evidence-based discussions and written responses
- ☐ experimenting with incorporating an anecdote in informative writing

Short Story Choices

(please select TWO short stories)

Recognizing that Regular English I is a high school course and our reading features mature content, *be sure to personally research the choices below before selecting the one you'd prefer to read and study.*

Short Stories by Gary Soto:

- ["Seventh Grade"](#)
- ["The Chicken That Crossed the Road"](#)
- ["Growing Up"](#)
- ["The No-Guitar Blues"](#)
- ["The Challenge"](#)

For further information:

Please contact Mrs. House at lisa.house@nisd.net. During the summer, Mrs. House will usually respond to emails within one week's time. **NOTE: The assignment can only be accessed via the student NISD portal.**