

# Bengal English

Pre-AP English II Honors 2026-2027  
 Summer Assignment  
*I Must Betray You* by Ruta Sepetys

Dear English II Honors students:  
 Welcome to the HHS Pre-AP English II Honors program for 2026-2027!

We look forward to working with you this upcoming year. As an honors student, it is our expectation that you come to class with a commitment to excellence, and it is our goal that you leave our classes with an appreciation for literature and writing.

English II Honors begins with a shared summer reading experience thematically related to the Unit One focus: Literary analysis & societal norms. English II Honors students must read *I Must Betray You* by Ruta Sepetys. This reading, along with the attached Evidence Tracker, is due on the **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**.

Copies of *I Must Betray You* are available:

- For checkout at the HHS main office
- Through various merchants (thriftbooks.com, bookoutlet.com, or amazon.com, etc.)

**Evidence Tracker:** As you read, *I Must Betray You*, collect evidence that helps answer the guiding questions below.

<b>Guiding Question One</b> How does the setting influence the choices people make?	<b>Guiding Question Two</b> How do challenges and conflicts reveal a character's values and identity?	<b>Guiding Question 3</b> How do symbols help communicate larger ideas about human nature and society?
<p><b>Setting:</b> As you read, track moments when the political, social, or physical environment affects a character's decisions, relationships, opportunities, or survival. Consider how the setting creates challenges, pressures, or limitations that shape the story.</p> <p><b>Look for evidence of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rules, expectations, or restrictions created by society</li> <li>• The impact of fear, power, or control</li> <li>• How characters adapt to their environment</li> <li>• Conflicts that emerge because of the setting</li> </ul>	<p><b>Characterization:</b> As you read, collect evidence that shows how characters respond to difficult choices, pressure, fear, or uncertainty. Consider what their actions, words, thoughts, and relationships reveal about who they are becoming.</p> <p><b>Look for evidence of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important decisions characters make</li> <li>• Moments of courage, fear, loyalty, or betrayal</li> <li>• Changes in beliefs, attitudes, or behavior</li> <li>• Internal and external conflicts that shape identity</li> </ul>	<p><b>Symbolism:</b> As you read, identify objects, images, places, or recurring ideas that seem to represent something beyond their literal meaning. Consider how these symbols help develop the novel's themes and messages.</p> <p><b>Look for evidence of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recurring objects, images, or motifs</li> <li>• What those symbols may represent</li> <li>• How symbols connect to characters or conflicts</li> <li>• Messages the author communicates through symbolism</li> </ul>

Please note that if any portion of your summer assignment is plagiarized or AI generated you may be removed from English II Honors.

We hope you all enjoy your summer and can't wait to meet you!

If you have any questions, please feel free to email both Lacy Svingen (lsvingen@helenaschools.org) and Jessica Vallincourt (jvallincourt@helenaschools.org).

Thank you and happy reading!  
 Mrs. Svingen and Mrs. Vallincourt

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<input type="checkbox"/> Q1 <input type="checkbox"/> Q2 <input type="checkbox"/> Q3			
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