



PreAP English 1
Summer Reading Assignment 2026

Dear Students,

Welcome to PreAP English 1 at Helena High School! We're excited to begin this journey with you. As a PreAP student, you are expected to demonstrate a strong commitment to excellence and a willingness to challenge yourself. Our goal is for you leave this course with a lasting appreciation for literature, stronger writing skills, and the confidence to think critically and creatively.

We will begin the year with a shared summer reading experience. All PreAP English 1 students are required to read ***Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*** by J.K. Rowling. In addition to the reading, you will complete a reading journal, described below. **Both the novel and the journal are due on the first day of school.**

THE NOVEL

Copies of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* are available for checkout at the HHS main office. You may also find copies at the Lewis and Clark Library or any major bookseller.

THE READING JOURNAL

In addition to reading the novel, you will complete a typed reading journal. We recommend that you read the novel for enjoyment first—this will help you better understand the plot, characters, and themes before diving into the assignment. As you re-read, use sticky notes or colored tabs to mark key elements of fiction; these will support your journal responses and class discussions when school begins.

You may design the layout of your reading journal, but it must be:

- **Typed**
- **Proofread for clarity and grammar**
- **Organized and easy to follow**

Your journal must include the following two components:

1. **Chapter Event Summaries:**

For each chapter, identify 1–3 key events. Write 1–2 complete sentences for each event, explaining both what happened and why it matters to the story.

2. **Thematic Questions:**

From the list of seven questions below, **choose four to answer**. Each response should be 5–10 complete sentences and include evidence or details from the novel. In addition, you will **create two of your own thoughtful questions** and answer them in the same way. These responses are meant to help you think deeply about the novel's themes and ideas.

Choose four of the following questions to answer:

- a. Is it fair for the children to be separated into different houses?
- b. Is curiosity a good or bad trait?
- c. Should young children be encouraged to compete against each other?
- d. Is it ever ethical to not follow the rules?
- e. Which is more important: common sense or knowledge?
- f. Is it just to separate the wizarding world and the muggle world?
- g. Does humanity have a place in a quest for power?

Important Note: Submitting plagiarized or AI-generated work will result in consequences, including potential removal from the PreAP English program.

Questions?

If you have any questions over the summer, please don't hesitate to reach out.

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