

**American Literature College Prep – Grade 11
Summer Reading Assignment 2015**

Any questions – please contact
Mrs. Urban at
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The 11th grade curriculum features a study of American Literature and this summer you will read one of its classics and one non-fiction text.

Reading Assignment #1:

A Separate Peace by John Knowles

Read *A Separate Peace* and be prepared for a 50 point test on its plot upon your return to school. As you read, take notes, write questions, draw conclusions... draw pictures! Do what you must to actively engage in the text and I promise you will understand the story much better.

Reading Assignment #2:

The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch (non-fiction)

Read *The Last Lecture* and then watch the lecture:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ji5_MqicxSo

Background: Randy Pausch dedicated his last lecture in the following way: “With thanks to my parents who allowed me to dream, and with hopes for the dreams my children will have.” There are people in each of your lives, like family members, teachers, and friends, who want to help you to be successful. Randy emphasized that making those dreams a reality requires you to be resilient, determined, and empathetic.

Your task: Write a multi-page paper giving YOUR “Last Lecture.” This is not a formal essay in the usual sense (You MAY use 1st person)- however, please make sure your paper is clear, pays attention to grammar, and has an organizational sense about it. Your assignment is to write about what your dreams are and how you are going to demonstrate those times in your life where you had to overcome or deal with a difficult experience. Please share what you hope for those around you- your family, friends, and other relationships. Use Randy Pausch’s speech to guide you. Please feel free to deviate away from “resiliency, determination, and empathy” if you value other aspects of the human experience.

Due: Must be printed and ready for the 1st day of school