

Approaches to English Summer Reading 2022

Welcome to Approaches to English! This year we will explore the question of why stories matter. To begin, you will read two books this summer and complete the assignments:

1. *Bluefish* by Pat Schmatz
2. Free choice book

Assignment #1: *Bluefish* project

After reading the book, **choose one** of the following:

1. Draw a character web depicting the relationships between various characters in the novel. Write each of the character's names on a large sheet of paper or poster board, leaving as much space around them as possible. Around each name write:

- a description of the character (age, appearance, family background, job, skills, interests, etc.)
- adjectives to describe his/her personality
- quotes from the book which give insight into his/her character (Don't forget quotation marks and page numbers.)

Draw lines to connect each of the characters who have a relationship in the book, and along these lines write a brief description of the relationship.

OR

2. Imagine that you have to come up with an alternate title for the book. Choose a title that conveys your understanding of the book's themes, characters, or mood. Then design a new book jacket featuring this title. Think particularly about how you can use visual techniques such as color, font, framing, composition, and symbols to emphasize your key ideas.

You will present your project during the first week of school. You will be graded on your creativity, accurate representation of the text, and presentation. 50 points. See the rubric on the next page.

Bluefish Project Rubric
Summer Reading
Approaches to English

Concerns (Needs Improvement)	Criteria	Meets (or exceeds) Expectations
	<p>Presentation/Creativity: Project is attractive and neat; showcases creativity and original ideas. Verbal presentation is clear.</p> <p>Score: _____/15</p>	
	<p>Accuracy: All information from the text is correct and accurately represents the characters/plot/themes.</p> <p>Score: _____/15</p>	
	<p>Completeness: Project fulfills all requirements of the assignment.</p> <p>Score: _____/10</p>	
	<p>Effort: Strong evidence of effort to complete project.</p> <p>Score: _____/10</p>	

Assignment #2: Free choice book

Your second assignment is to **read any book of your choice**. The requirements are loose, but the book must be a full-length novel, play, non-fiction book, or poetry/short story compilation. You should choose a book you haven't read before.

If you'd like some ideas, here are a couple book lists with recommendations for 9th graders (I did not compile these lists, so you should check the books' appropriateness for you as a reader before deciding). You do not have to choose a book from these lists.

50 Must-Read Books for Ninth Graders:

<https://www.boredteachers.com/books/50-must-read-books-for-ninth-graders>

Classic Books for a 9th Grade Reading List:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/9th-grade-reading-list-4160554>

****Note** that we will read *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Romeo and Juliet* together in class, so do not choose either of those.

After finishing your book, you will prepare a **book talk** which you will present during the first week of school. Details on the next page.

Here is a link to a **sample book talk** that I recorded:

<https://youtu.be/F7c9fEtDtBQ>