

**SACRED HEART ACADEMY
GUIDELINES FOR OPTIMAL READING OF SUMMER READING TEXTS
PROPOSED BY THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF SACRED HEART ACADEMY**

**9th GRADE SUMMER READING TEXTS FOR ALL 9th GRADERS ENROLLED IN
REGENTS LEVEL LITERARY GENRE AND HONORS LEVEL LITERARY GENRE:**

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith
Feed by M.T. Anderson
Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson

**ADDITIONAL SUMMER READING TEXT FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN
HONORS LITERARY GENRE:**

Anthem by Ayn Rand

For the most enriching reading experience, and to foster reading retention, the English Department recommends that students:

- Read each text slowly- i.e. no more than 20 pages per day
- Read carefully and critically, focusing on character identification, critical plot points, and themes (universal messages)
- Annotate the text (if the student owns the book) by writing commentary in the margins or by placing commentary on post-its and attached them to respective pages
- Keep a reading journal; we highly recommend that students devote a notebook exclusively to this exercise: after each chapter, students should record 3 details from each chapter- i.e. character description, character action/decision, critical plot point. We recommend that students maintain this practice throughout the school year when addressing each assigned text.

While these guidelines are not mandatory, we strongly and sincerely offer them as suggestions for students to maximize their comprehension, retention, and enjoyment of these impactful texts.

We wish the newest members of our Sacred Heart family every success as the Class of 2030 embarks upon the captivating journey through the illuminative world of literature offered via Sacred Heart Academy's English curriculum.