

# Assignments for Rising Tenth Graders

## ALL assignments are due on the first day of school

ACCORDING TO THE ASSIGNMENTS/CLASSES, ALL SOPHOMORE STUDENTS SHOULD READ TWO BOOKS: ONE BOOK FOR ENGLISH CLASS AND ONE BOOK FOR SCIENCE CLASS. PLEASE CONTACT MRS. ZALAC IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR DO NOT KNOW WHICH BOOKS YOU SHOULD READ: [SZalac@academyatthelakes.org](mailto:SZalac@academyatthelakes.org).

English II: **Student Choice Book** (Click [here](#) to see the list)  
English II Honors: ***The Catcher in the Rye*** by J.D. Salinger

Chemistry and  
Chemistry Honors: ***The Disappearing Spoon: And Other True Tales of Madness, Love and the History of the World from the Periodic Table*** by Sam Kean

Biology and  
Biology Honors: ***House of the Scorpion*** by Nancy Farmer

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### Student-Choice Book (English II only)

**Directions:** Choose one book from the list of student-choice books; click [here](#) to see this complete list. Then, complete the assignment for your book choice. Click [here](#) to see the assignment. When completing the template, it is expected that all of the answers are your words and not copied from the Internet or any other source. Be prepared to turn in your work to your **English teacher** on the **first day** of school.

During the first weeks of school, you will also complete a creative project and/or an objective test that demonstrates your knowledge of the book.

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### ***The Catcher in the Rye*** (English II Honors only)

**Part I:** While reading the book, please highlight and annotate, so you will be prepared to take an objective test/quiz upon your return. You are expected to know the book well: characters, plot, setting, themes, etc. Be prepared to turn in your book to your **English teacher** on the **first day** of school.

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Directions for highlighting and annotating the novel:

- Use a yellow marker to highlight lines that you believe are relevant (characterization, conflict, theme, etc.)
- Use a pen to label and define
  - Follow changes in Holden Caulfield's personality
  - Highlight his discoveries, likes and dislikes
  - Highlight the places Holden visits in the novel
  - Highlight, label and comment on the different characters he meets on his journey

**Part II:** In a creative and thoughtful way, you will explore the various themes of the book while considering the evolution of the American teenager. First, you will make your own e-bulletin board that reflects teenagers throughout the 20th and 21st centuries.

A. With your computer, go to the [Pinterest](#) website and make an account (if you do not already have one); it's free.

B. On *Pinterest*, make a new board titled "TEENAGERS" or create your own title.

C. Next, use *Google* images or another search engine to find 8 original photographs that were taken during these time periods (listed below). Please be sure each image is from an authentic website; this should NOT include advertisement or someone's rendition of teenage life/culture. Add each of these images to your Pinterest Board:

- 1 image of teenager(s) in the 1940's
- 1 image of teenager(s) in the 1950's
- 1 image of teenager(s) in the 1960's
- 1 image of teenager(s) in the 1970's
- 1 image of teenager(s) in the 1980's
- 1 image of teenager(s) in the 1990's
- 1 image of teenager(s) in the 2000's
- 1 image of teenager(s) from present time

D. Each image you choose for your Pinterest page should be labeled with its era: for example, "The 1950's"

E. Each image might also be found with a search such as: "Teenagers Dancing 1950's" or Teenagers hanging out or Teenagers eating and so on.

F. Bring your Pinterest link to class on your computer on Day #1 of school.

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**Part III:** Next, write a 5 to 7-sentence paragraph defining the word "angst". Note its root and its many meanings. Use various reputable sources to define this word. This assignment is due on **first day of school**. Your work should be typed, double-spaced and printed.

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### ***The Disappearing Spoon: And Other True Tales of Madness, Love and the History of the World from the Periodic Table*** (Chemistry and Chemistry Honors Students)

Be prepared to turn in your work to **your science teacher** on the **first day** of school. Your work should be typed and double-spaced. The quality of your ideas and the quality of your writing will be assessed.

Read and **choose five** of the following questions to answer. Answers will vary in length; however, most will be approximately a paragraph or two. Support your ideas with specific details and quotations. When quotations are used, include the page number(s). Be thoughtful and cohesive when answering the questions.

1. What was the most surprising fact that you learned from reading *The Disappearing Spoon*? Were there any elements or scientists that you thought that you knew a lot about, but then you discovered you didn't?
2. Should Mendeleev deserve the credit he gets for "discovering" the periodic table even though other scientists had the same idea before him? Support your arguments with details from the book.
3. Sam Kean details numerous prizes awarded to scientists for their discoveries. What do you think are the benefits of awarding prizes for scientific breakthroughs? Can there be drawbacks?
4. *The Disappearing Spoon* shines a light on many female scientists who have made significant contributions in scientific history. What role do you think their gender played in their work? Or do you think that their gender was irrelevant? Include information of the experiences of the women discussed in the novel.

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5. Why did it take scientists so long to discover what a chemical element really was? Why were scientists so surprised when they discovered they could make chemical compounds from noble gases?
6. How did reading *The Disappearing Spoon* change your ideas about the day-to-day life of scientists and the work they do? Cite specific examples from the book that relate to this question.
7. Sam Kean makes connections to many areas of science, nature and life that normally aren't discussed in association with the periodic table. What connections surprised you? Cite specific examples from the book.
8. Considering they exist within nature, were you surprised to find out how dangerous some of the elements on the periodic table are? Which element stories in the book most shocked or surprised you? Use details while discussing your answer.
9. If you could name an element, what would you name it? Remember: it has to end in "-ium" and you can't name it after a living person, including yourself. Briefly describe the properties of the element and consider where it would fit into the current periodic table.
10. If you could redesign the periodic table, what would yours look like? How would the elements be organized to make sense to the rest of the world?

### ***House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer (Biology and Biology Honors Students)**

After reading the novel, *House of the Scorpion*, respond to all portions of the following questions. Answers will vary in length; however, most will be approximately a paragraph or two. Be prepared to turn in your work to **your science teacher** on the **first day** of school.

1. As a clone, most people treat Matt as inhuman. Is a clone, created in a lab and born from a cow, still a human or something different? How much of a person's personality is genetic, and how much is environmental?
2. Why is the decision made not to "blunt" Matt's intelligence? Eduardo wonders if he has done Matt a favor and if he will "thank him for it later." Was Matt's life easier or more difficult because his intelligence was left

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intact? Would Matt have thanked Eduardo? Why do they blunt the intelligence of all of the other clones?

3. "In an odd way it felt as though El Patron were still alive, and in one sense he was. For Matt still existed. As long as he survived, El Patron had not vanished from the world" (Farmer 252). Do you agree that as long as Matt survives, El Patron does also?
  
4. What parts of this story seemed most believable? Least believable?
  
5. Some book reviewers felt that the ending of the story was too quick and that all of the problems were solved too easily right at the end. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion? Would you like to be cloned? How would you use a clone?