

**Anchor Bay High School  
Honors Western Literature  
Required Summer Readings and Assignments  
2024-2025**



*“To learn to read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled out is a spark.” — Victor Hugo*

### **Overview**

During this course, you will be progressing at an accelerated rate developing your critical analyzing and synthesizing skills while reading and writing. Reading for fun and reading to analyze require two different approaches. Since we will be focusing on analysis this year, be sure to approach the texts by looking beyond the literal level and searching for a deeper meaning.

All Honors Western Literature students must read (per the directions on next page) [Ernest Hemingway's \*A Farewell to Arms\*](#) and our nonfiction selection [Outliers by Malcomb Gladwell](#). **We do not require certain ISBNs.**

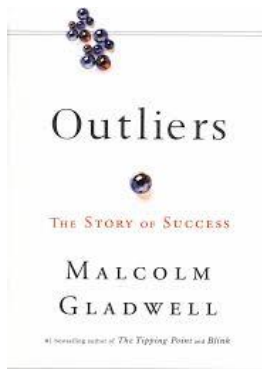
You will have assessments (discussions, objective tests, short answers, and/or essays) concerning both reading assignments within the first two weeks of class. The assignment is due on the first full day of school. Late work will follow the ABHS policy.

### **Encouragement**

While I have high expectations about your job analyzing the works, I hope you enjoy reading them as well. If you have any questions about the assignments, please contact Mrs. Boseak at [lboseak@abs.misd.net](mailto:lboseak@abs.misd.net). Be sure to appropriately title your emails. I look forward to working with everyone next year. *-Mrs. Lori Boseak*

# Assignments

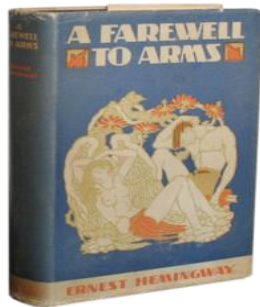
## #1 *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell



**Rationale:** This highly acclaimed work contains the elements of persuasion, expository, and narrative and will serve as an introduction to our nonfiction and rhetorical units. This is also a must-read for any student of Advanced Placement Language and Composition.

**What to Do:** Read the entire work. Also, respond to the following analytical questions. These responses should be **handwritten** on lined paper in blue or black ink.

## #2 *A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway



**Rationale:** Pulitzer prize winning author Hemingway weaves his personal experiences with fiction to create this classic novel about love during wartime. Hemingway often appears on the AP Literature exam and his work is perfect for teaching how to analyze style, narration, and theme. As we continue our study of fiction throughout the year, we will reference this novel.

**What to Do:** Read Book One (Chapters 1-12, or Chapters I-XII.) We will continue to read the rest of the novel during the first few weeks of school.

*"I still love books. Nothing a computer can do can compare to a book. You can't really put a book on the Internet. Three companies have offered to put books by me on the Net, and I said, 'If you can make something that has a nice jacket, nice paper with that nice smell, then we'll talk.' All the computer can give you is a manuscript. People don't want to read manuscripts. They want to read books. Books smell good. They look good. You can press it to your bosom. You can carry it in your pocket." — Ray Bradbury*

## Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell

**What to Do:** Read the entire work. Also, respond to the following analytical questions. These responses should be **handwritten** on lined paper in blue or black ink. Please label each question with the corresponding number and include your first and last name at the top your work on each page.

Each question is worth 3 points for a total of 60 points.

Rubric for each question:

3 (meets assignment)	2 (partially meets)	1 (minimally meets)
<i>Answer is accurate, significant, and relevant with <b>many details</b> and <b>specific examples</b> from the play/life. Details support point. Word choice and conventions support meaning. Question is restated in the response.</i>	<i>Answer is accurate, significant, and relevant but has few details to support or explain the answer. Attempts at organization are partially successful. Word choice and errors in conventions may distract from meaning.</i>	<i>Answer is inaccurate or a misinterpretation with little or no relevance to text or question. Ideas and content are not developed with details or appear random. Word choice and errors in conventions may significantly distract from meaning. Question is NOT restated in the response.</i>

### Introduction “The Roseto Mystery”

1. What is the Roseto Mystery? What overarching idea is Gladwell establishing in his introduction?

### Chapter One “The Matthew Effect”

2. Explain the author’s viewpoint regarding “The Story of Success”. Are personal qualities the sole reason one becomes an outlier? Explain your answer providing support from the text.

3. What is the consequence of “prematurely writing people off as failures”?

### Chapter Two “The 10,000-Hour Rule”

4. Explain the 10,000-Hour Rule.

5. Consider the following: “Practice isn’t the thing you do once you’re good. It’s the thing you do that makes you good.” Explain how this philosophy was at work for Bill Joy, The Beatles, and Bill Gates.

### Chapter Three “The Trouble with Geniuses, Part 1”

6. Describe the difference between ‘divergence testing’ and ‘convergence testing’. Is one more significant than the other?

7. Gladwell states that communities and companies in American society “are convinced that those at the very top of the IQ scale have the greatest potential.” After reading the chapter, explain why you either agree or disagree with this statement.

### Chapter Four “The Trouble with Geniuses, Part 2”

8. Compare and contrast Langan and Oppenheimer.

9. What is the difference between “concerted cultivation” and “accomplishment of natural growth”?

#### Chapter Five “The Three Lessons of Joe Flom”

10. Explain Gladwell’s statement as it relates to Joe Flom: “Buried in that setback was a golden opportunity.”

11. Consider the following quote: “Hard work is a prison sentence only if it does not have meaning.” Explain how this quote relates to the chapter.

#### Chapter Six “Harlan, Kentucky”

12. Describe the “culture of honor” that exists in the Appalachian Mountains.

13. What are the “cultural legacies” as described in this chapter? Why are they significant to understand when dealing with people?

#### Chapter Seven “The Ethnic Theory of Plane Crashes”

14. Describe the significance of the “willingness to change” as it relates to Korean Air.

15. What is Gladwell explaining about the importance of communication?

#### Chapter Eight “Rice Paddies and Math Tests”

16. After reading this section of the book, have your opinions changed about math classes and math

ability? Explain why or why not.

17. Describe the connection between the “10,000-Hour Rule” and the wet-rice farmers in Asia.

#### Chapter Nine “Marita’s Bargain”

18. Describe the significance of summer vacation as it relates to different groups of students. Why is this significant?

18. Gladwell states “success follows a predictable course.” How does this quote apply to Marita? How does this apply to you?

#### Epilogue “A Jamaican Story”

19. What does Gladwell mean when he states, “The outlier in the end is not an outlier at all.”

20. Explain what Gladwell means when he states, “That is the story of my mother’s path to success – and it isn’t true.”