

## Summer Reading Assignment – American Literature Juniors: 2024–2025

### Assigned Text:

- *The Lock Artist*, Steve Hamilton

**Welcome to American Literature!** An important component of the English program at Mission College Prep is the summer reading assignment. The goals of summer reading are the following: to promote your interest in reading, to keep you intellectually engaged, and to broaden your horizons.

Your knowledge of the summer reading book's content will be discerned in **two** ways:

- A piece of writing--to be done once school begins
- An exam--to be taken once school begins (most likely in that first week!)

Please note, for the summer reading book, you must purchase a PAPER copy of the book, not a digital version. You must bring the hard copy of this book, with your annotations inside, to the first day of English classes. You will be given an exam in that first week of school. This exam will be multiple choice, assessing your comprehension of the basic content of the book.

We suggest you “close read” the book so that you absorb and understand characters, plot, and theme. Close reading means responding to the literature in a meaningful way as you read. This will better prepare you for the summer reading test and essay writing you will undertake beginning in that first week of school. Below are some guidelines for close reading:

- **Circle** the names of **new characters (when they first appear)** and of unfamiliar words. You may also look up words that you do not know.
- **Underline** passages or **put an asterisk (\*)** beside passages you think are important in the novel. Next to any underlined or asterisked passages you should write comments. You don't have to do this for all passages you mark.
- Put a **question mark** beside anything that you do not understand or would like to ask about in class. Passages that confuse you need to be clarified; mark them and then use the teacher and classmates to help clarify.
- When you complete each chapter, use the space at the beginning or end of the chapter to write a **brief summary** of what has happened. A couple of sentences or a few bullet points are fine. Do this immediately after you finish the chapter. It is recommended that you do this for each chapter.
- You may highlight, even in different colors, but you should have a reason for highlighting. It's more important that you write comments in your books. These comments will help you review for the summer reading test and brainstorm for the summer reading writing assignment, which will be assigned once classes begin in the fall.
- If you read the book early in the summer, be sure to skim it and review your close reading notes before the first week of school to refresh your memory.