

2018 High School Summer Reading Instructions

All summer long, journey to new places, study cloud shapes, splash in creeks and swimming pools, count the stars in the night sky, love every warm minute of freedom. In between, read **three** works listed for your grade level. (Note that you may elect to read **one** of the science selections listed on the final page to satisfy the requirement.) You must submit a journal about your reading experience.

- Compose **four** journal entries per work. While conversational in tone, they should adhere to “good writing standards.” Think of this exercise as a way to carry on an honest dialogue with an informed fellow reader.

- Entries should be thoughtful and concise—no more than two to three paragraphs per entry.

- **AVOID SUMMARIZING.** To reiterate that point: **AVOID SUMMARIZING!** Assume that the teacher is familiar with the book’s content or plot. From that point, begin to reflect, question, and evaluate.

- Adapt your reflections to the discipline associated with the work. For example, with a literature selection, you might consider conflicts, themes, characterization, and writing style, whereas with a science selection, you might think about methods of problem solving and experimentation.

- Compose while your insights are fresh. If stopping to write interferes with reading pleasure, record key ideas or reflections immediately after reading a portion so that you have the “seeds” for later composition.

- Type journals in double-spaced, 12 point-font. Instead of title pages, simply place your name, title of the work, and the designated discipline in the upper right-hand corner of the first page. Staple each book’s entries individually, then submit all three journals to your literature teacher who will deliver them to the assigning teacher.

- **Due Date: The second day that your class meets**

- **While teachers of various disciplines may evaluate your journals, points will count toward the first quarter’s Literature grade.**
 - **20 points—Evidence of critical thought and effort**
 - **10 points—Superficial thought and substandard effort**
 - **0 points—Failure to submit assignment by due date**

2018 High School Summer Reading List

9th Grade

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| 1. | <i>The Screwtape Letters</i> | C.S. Lewis | Literature |
| | Experienced devil gives advice on how to tempt. | | |
| 2. | <i>The Hawk and the Dove</i> | Penelope Wilcock | Literature |
| | Lessons of life and love in a community of medieval monks. | | |
| 3. | <i>Ivanhoe</i> | Walter Scott | Literature |
| | A crusader fights yet again for his lady and his kidnapped King. | | |
| 4. | <i>The Joyful Beggar</i> | Louis de Wohl | Literature |
| | Francis of Assisi's journey to sainthood. | | |
| 5. | <i>Joan of Arc</i> | Mark Twain | Literature |
| | The conquering Maid of Orleans is tried as a heretic. Twain considered this well-researched novel to be his best work. | | |
| 6. | <i>The Once and Future King</i> | T.H. White | Literature |
| | A masterful rendering of King Arthur's Camelot. | | |
| 7. | <i>A Man for All Seasons</i> | Robert Bolt | Literature |
| | As Henry VIII strategizes to divorce his wife, Thomas More takes his stand; his act of conscience shakes the world. | | |

10th Grade

1. *To Kill a Mockingbird* Harper Lee Literature
A Southern child learns of prejudice, justice, and honor.
2. *My Life and Hard Times* James Thurber Literature
Short stories and sketches by a first-class humorist. (fiction)
3. *Gone with the Wind* Margaret Mitchell Literature
The most willful of heroines, Scarlet O'Hara sees her fortunes rise and fall during the Civil War.
4. *Billy Budd* Herman Melville Literature
The false accusation of a beloved sailor has tragic consequences.
5. *Pudd'nhead Wilson* Mark Twain History
When babies of slave and master are switched at birth, the morality of a society goes on trial.
6. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* Harriet Beecher Stowe Literature
This novel galvanized a nation with its powerful dramatization of slavery.
7. *Our Town* Thornton Wilder Literature
A drama of small-town living that asks: If you could choose one day to live over again, which would it be?

11th Grade

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| 1. <i>Frankenstein</i> | Mary Shelley | Philosophy |
| Frankenstein and his project: the consequences of creation. | | |
| 2. <i>The Scarlet Pimpernel</i> | Baroness Constance Orczy | Literature |
| A clever tale of heroism and disguise during the French Revolution. | | |
| 3. <i>David Copperfield</i> | Charles Dickens | Literature |
| The heart-tugging tale of an orphan's struggle to become a man. | | |
| 4. <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> | Erich Maria Remarque | History |
| World War I through the eyes of a disillusioned German soldier. | | |
| 5. <i>Perelandra</i> | C.S. Lewis | Religion |
| What will another Eve choose in a "Garden of Eden" on the planet Perelandra? Lewis's gripping, imaginative telling of that drama. | | |
| 6. <i>Leave it to Psmith</i> | P.G. Wodehouse | Literature |
| Wacky British humor at its finest as our eccentric hero tangles himself in a web of intrigue to win his lady love. | | |
| 7. <i>Vanity Fair</i> | William Thackeray | Literature |
| English society in the 1800's: a satire featuring the memorable villainess, Becky Sharp. | | |
| 8. <i>1984</i> | George Orwell | History |
| What happens in a totalitarian society when one man dares to think, act, and remember? | | |

12th Grade

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| 1. <i>Anna Karenina</i> | Leo Tolstoy | Literature |
| Two remarkable portraits of selfish and selfless love. | | |
| 2. <i>Man's Search for Meaning</i> | Victor Frankl | Religion |
| A Holocaust survivor gives his life-affirming response to suffering. | | |
| 4. <i>Les Miserables</i> | Victor Hugo | Literature |
| An epic tale of redemption and enduring love as a good man attempts to outrun his past. | | |
| 5. <i>Orthodoxy</i> | G.K. Chesterton | Religion |
| A brilliant synthesis of right reason and faith written prior to the author's conversion. | | |
| 6. <i>Moby Dick</i> | Herman Melville | Literature |
| A sea captain's all-consuming quest to destroy the great white whale that has crippled him: body and soul. | | |
| 7. <i>The Spy Who Came in From the Cold</i> | John Le Carre | History |
| In this spy thriller that set the standard for the genre, a British agent "defects" to East Germany to bring down an operative. | | |
| 8. <i>Kristen Lavansdatter: The Bridal Wreath</i> | Sigrid Undset | Literature |
| A willful girl comes to terms with life's complexity in medieval Norway. | | |

Science Selections

Students may choose one of the following books to fulfill the summer reading requirement. ***Note that selection #6 is limited to grades 10, 11, and 12.**

1. *Galileo's Daughter* Dava Sobel

A fascinating examination of Galileo's struggles and times, inspired by actual letters the scientist wrote to his daughter, a cloistered nun.
2. *Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time* Dava Sobel

A biography of John Harrison, an unschooled English clock-maker, who accomplished one of the earliest and greatest triumphs of technology: a clock that could carry "true time" from one port to any other in the world.
3. *The Great Bridge: The Epic Story of the Building of the Brooklyn Bridge* David McCullough

A compelling account of the engineering marvel that defines the American spirit.
4. *The Path between the Seas: The Creation of the Panama Canal* David McCullough

The dramatic chronicle of both human and natural obstacles overcome in the building of the canal that connects the Caribbean Sea with the Pacific Ocean.
5. *The Double Helix* James Watson

A thrilling and honest account of the race to identify the structure of DNA as told by one of the scientists. This discovery revolutionized biochemistry and merited a Nobel Prize.
- * 6. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* Rebecca Skloot

The revealing story of how the cancer cells of an Afro-American sharecropper are harvested without her consent and grown in cultures. While this harvesting results in scientific breakthroughs like polio vaccine and cloning, it raises serious issues in bioethics.
7. *Silent Spring* Rachel Carson

A resident of the Pittsburgh region and a graduate of Chatham College, Carson published this groundbreaking work in 1962. She substantiated the impact of chemical pesticides and herbicides on the ecosystem, effectively launching the grassroots environmental movement .