



## Christian Heritage School – Trumbull, CT

### 2021 Required Summer Reading for Students Entering Grade 11

Dear Parents and Students:

The CHS Summer Reading Program aims to keep students engaged over the summer and prepare them for what they will be studying in the following school year. Studies have shown that most students who do not engage in intellectual activities over extended vacations lose some or many of the skills they acquired during the school year. We encourage all students to complete the summer reading of their choice in a timely manner.

Please follow the instructions carefully for selecting a book and completing assignments. Please avoid common mistakes. Avoid choosing a book that you have read before. If there is a film version, do not watch it until after you have read the book. Avoid substituting study aids like Spark Notes since they are mere shadows of the real thing and are often inaccurate or biased.

Lastly, read for your own enjoyment, and be ready to share your thoughts with your peers and teachers in the fall. Happy reading this summer!

Blessings,

Mr. Ben Chase  
English Department Chair

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Instructions: For 11<sup>th</sup> grade, the summer reading options are American literature-oriented. Please choose a work that you have never read before. Additionally, select a writing assignment from the list of options provided. This assignment should be completed prior to the first day of school. English teachers will provide specific due dates in FACTS at the start of the school year.

Please note: Some titles are classical works; others are more contemporary and may have mature or complicated content. Parents and students are encouraged to read a review of the work prior to making a selection in order to choose the most suitable novel or play to read.

\*All students entering eleventh grade must complete the SAT review through Khan Academy as explained on the document entitled Khan Academy Summer Work in the summer studies section of the school website. Completion of this work will be recorded as an English grade this fall.

The Mystic Seaport conducts a Moby Dick Marathon, where people take turns reading the entire novel in about 24 hours July 31-August 1 every year. For more information go to [www.mysticseaport.org](http://www.mysticseaport.org) and click on the “View All Events” link. Additionally, throughout the summer there are numerous local opportunities to see classic drama.

Literature and Composition 11/Seton Hall American Literature

Students entering either Lit. and Comp. 11 or Seton Hall American Lit.: Please choose one work from this list.

*Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury  
*Kindred*, Octavia Butler  
*My Antonia*, Willa Cather  
*The House on Mango Street*, Sandra Cisneros  
*The Awakening*, Kate Chopin  
*The Last of the Mohicans*, James Fenimore Cooper  
*A Yellow Raft in Blue Water*, Michael Dorris  
*Invisible Man*, Ralph Ellison  
*As I Lay Dying*, William Faulkner  
*Light in August*, William Faulkner  
*The Sound and the Fury*, William Faulkner  
*Alas, Babylon*, Charles Frazier  
*A Gathering of Old Men*, Ernest Gaines  
*A Raisin in the Sun*, Lorraine Hansberry  
*The House of Seven Gables*, Nathaniel Hawthorne  
*Catch-22*, Joseph Heller  
*A Farewell to Arms*, Ernest Hemingway  
*For Whom the Bell Tolls*, Ernest Hemingway  
*The Old Man and the Sea*, Ernest Hemingway  
*The Sun Also Rises*, Ernest Hemingway  
*Hiroshima*, John Hersey  
*Out of the Dust*, Karen Hesse  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Zora Neale Hurston  
*A Prayer for Owen Meany*, John Irving  
*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Ken Kesey  
*The Secret Life of Bees*, Sue Monk Kidd  
*Into the Wild*, John Krakauer  
*The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to his White Mother*, James McBride  
*All the Pretty Horses*, Cormac McCarthy  
*The Road*, Cormac McCarthy  
*The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*, Carson McCullers  
*The Member of the Wedding*, Carson McCullers  
*Moby Dick*, Herman Melville  
*Centennial*, James Michener  
*Death of a Salesman*, Arthur Miller  
*Gone with the Wind*, Margaret Mitchell  
*Beloved*, Toni Morrison  
*Fallen Angels*, Walter Dean Myers  
*The Things They Carried*, Tim O'Brien  
*The Chosen*, Chaim Potok  
*Atlas Shrugged*, Ayn Rand  
*The Light in the Forest*, Conrad Richter  
*The Jungle*, Upton Sinclair  
*East of Eden*, John Steinbeck  
*The Grapes of Wrath*, John Steinbeck  
*Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Harriet Beecher Stowe  
*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain

*The Glass Castle*, Jeannette Walls  
*Our Town*, Thornton Wilder  
*Black Boy*, Richard Wright

Literature and Composition 11/Seton Hall American Literature  
Writing Assignment

Assignment: Please choose one of the assignments below to develop once you have selected your book. In most cases, it is helpful to think about the assignment as you read your book so that you can take notes that are relevant to what you will be writing about. You will submit the assignment by September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Because you will be turning your written work into Turnitin.com, you must type all assignments. All work must be original (in your own words). Please pay careful attention to the guidelines for the assignment that you choose. Be prepared to explain your writing piece if your teacher requests a discussion.

Choose ONE from the following:

1. Character Journal: Develop a journal from the perspective of one character. Have a minimum of 10 entries. Each entry should be at least 100 words. An effective journal represents the character's thoughts and personality clearly; it also demonstrates an understanding of how the character interacts with events and other characters as well as the style and techniques of the author. It is NOT a summary. Superior journals will span the scope of the novel, incorporate important points in the story, and demonstrate an understanding of relevant literary techniques through the perspective of the character.
2. Reading Response Journal: This is different from #1 in that it is your response to what you are reading. Include at least 10 entries of at least 100 words each. Do not summarize what you are reading. Rather, reflect on a character or characters, a particular event, a decision that a character made, how the story (or a particular character) is developing, and so forth. Sometimes reflecting on an important quotation from a character or description is appropriate. Incorporate technical aspects of the writing, as appropriate (literary terms, for example). Date each entry with the corresponding page numbers or chapters so that it is clear what you are responding to in the story.
3. Essay Option #1: Many non-Christian works contain biblical principles through events, decisions, and/or characters' lives. Write an essay that develops a biblical theme, principle, or a particular Bible verse that is reflected in the text. The essay should include a strong thesis statement and many examples from the text that support the thesis statement. Superior essays will demonstrate reflection, analysis, and understanding of the work as a whole. Minimum word count: 750 words
4. Essay Option #2: Develop an essay that compares and contrasts two characters in the work. Consider how the characters respond to each other, to others, and to the different situations and/or challenges that they face. Superior essays will have an arguable thesis statement and use evidence from the text to support all points. Minimum word count: 750 words
5. Essay Option #3: Five years from now if you were to tell someone about the book, what would be the main message that you think is worth remembering? Write an essay that develops the most important theme of the novel (or play) and use evidence from the text that supports your thesis. Superior essays will have an arguable thesis statement and incorporate evidence that spans the whole novel. Minimum word count: 750 words
6. Essay Option #4: You are going to produce a movie version of your novel/play. Select 3 characters and explain how you would portray them and why. Whom would you cast as the actors for each of these characters and why? What would be the most critical scenes that you would include in the movie and how would these characters be portrayed on screen – why?

Provide a rationale for your decisions. Note: If your text has already been made into a movie, do not use that movie as the basis for your essay. Your work and ideas must be original. Superior essays will demonstrate understanding of the characters' roles in the story and provide evidence that spans the novel. Minimum word count: 750 words

7. Essay Option #5: Select any literary technique not already provided in previous essay options that is relevant to your work (e.g. tone, point of view, dramatic irony, etc.). Write an essay that analyzes the function and effect of this literary technique throughout the text. Superior essays will be analytical and incorporate relevant evidence that spans the novel. Minimum word count: 750 words