

The logo is a circular seal with a scalloped edge. Inside the seal, there is a central figure holding a staff with a cross, possibly a shepherd or a religious figure. Above the figure, it says "CHRISTIAN HERITAGE SCHOOL" and "COL 2:3". Below the figure, it says "TRUMBULL, CT".

**Christian Heritage School – Trumbull, CT**  
2022 Required Summer Reading for Students Entering Grade 8

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. Select a book that genuinely interests you!

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

## Students entering Literature and Composition 8

Overview: Because 8<sup>th</sup> graders read a variety of literature in their English class throughout the year, the summer reading options also represent a range of perspectives. We will read different voices in both our poetry unit and our short story unit this coming year. Our novels during the school year will be *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *The Hiding Place*, both of which address difference and the idea of standing up for things that are important to you. These varied books on this list will give opportunities to hear voices you may not have heard before.

Please choose two works that you have never read before. Additionally, select a writing assignment for each book you choose from the list of options provided. You may choose a different assignment for each book. This assignment should be completed prior to the first day of school.

Please note: The list includes fantasy novels, a non-fiction title and a number of fiction titles to choose from. Please choose two novels that will hold your interest and make this an enjoyable assignment for you. All have been checked for content on Common Sense Media and are listed as age appropriate. Parents and students are encouraged to read a review of the work prior to making a selection in order to choose the most suitable works to read.

Book list:

*Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson ISBN 979-8623553805

*Kira-Kira* by Cynthia Kadohata - ISBN 0689856402

*Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly ISBN 0062363602

*Fellowship of the Ring* by J.R.R. Tolkien ISBN 0547928211

*The Giver* by Lois Lowry ISBN 9780544336261

*The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton ISBN 014240733X

*Look Both Ways* by Jason Reynolds and Alexander Nabaum ISBN 1481438298

*Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin ISBN 0316038636

*The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora* by Pablo Cartaya ISBN 1101997257

*Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper ISBN 1416971718

Assignment options begin on the next page.

## Literature and Composition 8 Writing Assignments

Assignment: Please choose one of the assignments below for each book you have decided to read this summer. In most cases, it is helpful to think about the assignment as you read so that you can take notes that are relevant to what you will be writing about. Your assignment is due the first day of school and will be submitted into Turnitin.com, so 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. Minimum word counts are provided, but you may exceed those numbers.

Due Date: the first day of the 2022-23 school year

The second portion of the assignment will be a short (2-3 minute) oral presentation on one of your chosen novels in the first few weeks of school. As you are preparing your writing assignments, think about which one you may want to share with your classmates.

1. Create a slideshow with a minimum of 10 slides highlighting the main characters, plot points, setting and conflict in the novel. Each slide should be neatly presented, with proper amounts of text and illustration depicting the characters. Superior slideshows will exhibit an understanding of the novel, its characters and the theme of the book. Please include a 150-word statement detailing why you chose the novel and what you learned from your reading.
2. Essay Option #1: When you have finished high school, 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 and use evidence from the text that supports your thesis. Superior essays will have a strong, arguable thesis statement and incorporate evidence that spans the entire work. Minimum word count: 300 words
3. Essay Option #2: 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 that support the thesis statement. Superior essays will demonstrate reflection, analysis, and understanding of the novel as a whole. Minimum word count: 300 words
4. Novel in pictures: If you are artistic, create a comic book or illustrated storybook version of the novel with your own illustrations and text. Include a 200-word write-up (typed) of why you portrayed the story as you did in your storybook (why you included particular aspects of the story, what you were trying to present through your text and illustrations). The book should be at least 8 pages. Superior comic books or storybooks will be creative, well-illustrated, and demonstrate an understanding of the work that you have read. The write-up will be insightful and analytical.
5. Character Journal: Develop a journal from the perspective of one character. Have a minimum of 7 entries. Each entry should be at least 100 words (it can be more). 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. It is NOT a summary. Superior journals will span the scope of the novel and incorporate important points in the story.