



Christian Heritage School – Trumbull, CT
2022 Required Summer Reading for Students Entering Grade 9

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

Instructions: Students in the Upper School are required to read books related to their studies in the fall. Because 9th graders study world history in their social studies course and read some world literature during the year, the summer reading options are world 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 Google Classroom 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.

Throughout the summer there are typically opportunities to see classic drama in our area, some of which correspond to works read throughout high school. Students entering ninth grade will be reading *Romeo and Juliet*.

Literature and Composition 9/Honors Literature and Composition 9
World Literature

Students entering either Lit. and Comp. 9 or Honors Lit. and Comp. 9: Please choose one work from this list.

Works from Africa:

Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe
A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier, Ishmael Beah
Out of Africa: and Shadows on the Grass, Isak Dinesen
What is the What: The Autobiography of Valentino Achak Deng, Dave Eggers
The Poisonwood Bible, Barbara Kingsolver
Unbowed, Wangari Maathai
Kaffir Boy: The True Story of a Black Youth's Coming of Age in Apartheid South Africa, Mark Mathabane
Purple Hibiscus, Chimamanda Ngozi
Cry, the Beloved Country, Alan Paton
Chanda's Secrets, Allan Stratton

Works from Asia:

The Good Earth, Pearl S. Buck
Iqbal, Francesco D'Adamo
Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir or the Cultural Revolution, Ji-li Jiang
Snow Falling in Spring: Coming of Age In China During the Cultural Revolution, Moying Li
Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Cinderella, Adeline Yen Mah
Falling Leaves: The Memoir of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter, Adeline Yen Mah
Ties That Bind, Ties That Break, Lensey Namioka
Snow Flower and the Secret Fan: A Novel, Lisa See
Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress, Dai Sijie
The Joy Luck Club, Amy Tan
First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers, Loung Ung

Works from Europe:

The Inferno, Dante Alighieri
I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust, Livia Bitton-Jackson
Don Quixote, Miguel de Cervantes
The Cherry Orchard, Anton Chekhov
The Alchemist: A Fable About Following Your Dream, Paulo Coelho
The Brothers Karamazov, Fyodor Dostoyevsky
The Count of Monte Cristo, Alexandre Dumas
The Three Musketeers, Alexandre Dumas
Siddhartha, Herman Hesse
The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Victor Hugo
Les Miserables, Victor Hugo
A Doll's House, Henrik Ibsen

All But My Life: A Memoir, Gerda Weissman Klein
The Phantom of the Opera, Gaston Leroux
Doctor Zhivago, Boris Pasternak
All Quiet on the Western Front, Erich M. Remarque
Between Shades of Gray, Ruta Sepetys
Anna Karenina, Leo Tolstoy
Candide, Voltaire
Night and Dawn (both works), Elie Wiesel

Works from India:

Born Confused, Tanuja Desai Hidier
The Namesake: A Novel, Jhumpa Lahiri
Nectar in a Sieve, Kamala Markandaya
Sold, Patricia McCormick
The God of Small Things, Arundhati Roy
Midnight's Children, Salman Rushdie
A Time to Dance, Padma Venkatraman

Works from Latin America:

The House of the Spirits, Isabel Allende
Before We Were Free, Julia Alvarez
In the Time of the Butterflies, Julia Alvarez
Bless Me, Ultima, Rudolfo Anaya
Dreaming in Cuban, Cristina Garcia
Annie John, Jamaica Kincaid
Love in the Time of Cholera, Gabriel Garcia Marquez
One Hundred Years of Solitude, Gabriel Garcia Marquez
Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey, Sonia Nazario
Living up the Street, Gary Soto

Works from the Middle East:

Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America, Fioozeh Dumas
A Thousand Splendid Suns, Khaled Hosseini
Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace, One School at a Time, Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin
Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood, Mariane Satrapi
Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return, Mariane Satrapi
The Bookseller of Kabul, Ashe Seierstad
Shooting Kabul, N.H. Senzai

Works from the Ancient world:

Mythology, Edith Hamilton
The Iliad, Homer
Antigone, Sophocles

Oedipus the King, Sophocles (trans. by Bernard M. Knox)
The Aeneid, Virgil

Works from Canada:
Life of Pi, Yann Martel

Additional works for 9th grade only:
Watership Down, Richard Adams
Little Women, Louisa May Alcott
Oliver Twist, Charles Dickens
Captains Courageous, Rudyard Kipling

Please see Writing Assignments on next page.

Writing Assignments

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 so that you can take notes that are relevant to what you will be writing about. You will submit the assignment by September 9th, 2022. 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 the teacher wants to discuss it with you. Minimum word counts are provided, but you may exceed those numbers.

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 (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.
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. **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 300-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 12 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.
4. **Board game:** If you are creative and artistic, create a board game that clearly depicts important aspects of the story. The objective (goal) of the game should align with a theme or plot in the story. Create all parts of the game – the board, playing pieces, additional items, and so forth. It should be creative and fun to play. Include a 300-word write-up (typed) of why you made the board game as you did, why you included certain points of the story, and what you were trying to show about the novel through your game. Superior games will be creative, attractive, and demonstrate an understanding of the novel. The write-up will be insightful and analytical.
5. **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 that support the thesis statement. Superior essays will demonstrate reflection, analysis, and understanding of the novel as a whole. Minimum word count: 600 words
6. **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 a strong thesis

statement and use evidence from the text to support their points. Minimum word count: 600 words

7. 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 a strong, arguable thesis statement and incorporate evidence that spans the entire work. Minimum word count: 600 words
8. 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? 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: 600 words