



☀️ Summer Required Reading List ☀️

for 6th—12th Grade

2017-18 nh

As you bask in the scorching sun or laze about in the A/C, don't forget to think ahead...

In the interest of maintaining high-level reading and intellectual stimulation over the summer months, Heritage School requires that all upper level students accomplish the following reading requirements. **The English teachers will issue you the summer reading books in MAY.** You should **start** your summer required reading **no later than JULY** [in time to finish but still late enough remember something for the test we'll give you during the first few days of school]. In addition to the testing, students will participate in class discussions and composition based on the summer reading. For "free choice" books, please choose high quality books but avoid choosing books that other levels will cover during the year.

- 6th grade:** **Adam of the Road** by Elizabeth Janet Gray
PLUS: Choose a book of your own! [You will write a book report on it the first week.] Need help? Browse the Heritage library!
- 7th grade:** **Treasure Island** by Robert Louis Stevenson **PLUS: Choose a book of your own!**
- 8th grade:** **The Story of My Life** by Helen Keller [The **letters** in this volume are **not** required reading.]
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
- 9th grade:** **The Robe** by Lloyd C. Douglas
- 10th grade:** **Ben-Hur** by Lew Wallace
Silas Marner by George Eliot
- 11th grade:** **To Kill a Mockingbird** by Harper Lee
The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway
 + **Selected novel/play***
- * You selected the novel prior to leaving school for the summer and were approved **by NHierholzer**. Your fall research paper will be based on this novel; **DO NOT read any outside commentaries/summaries prior to returning to school. DO highlight and annotate or keep a reading journal with notes/questions/observations about themes, characters.**
- 12th grade:** **For English: 1984** by George Orwell (**Highlight, tab, or keep reading journal**) AND
Lord of the Flies by William Golding (**Highlight, tab, or keep reading journal**)
For Rhetoric/Apologetics The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis

A word about Spark Notes and Internet summaries...

"Study notes" are available at most bookstores. The intent of the producers of such notes is to provide notes for the student so that he/she can glean maximum benefit from the novel. Such booklets typically provide character lists, plot summaries by chapters, and analysis of the chapters and the overall novel/play. On the surface, these booklets might sound like helpful tools. They are usually produced by graduate students or professors and can be quite good. However, the usual practice for most students is to utilize the notes **INSTEAD** of reading the novel or play or to rely too heavily on the notes for interpretation of literature which Heritage School teaches the student to do on his/her own. **Parents are strongly encouraged to avoid buying such study notes for their children.**

The position of Heritage School is:

- **The use of such study notes is STRONGLY discouraged.** Since our goal is to provide the student with the tools for learning, we teach students "how to read a book." We strive not only to assist the student in achieving maximum comprehension of plot and important details but also to teach students how to **observe, think, and analyze a text on his/her own.** Use of novel guides/commentaries encourages a tendency toward dependence of the student on the single interpretation of others rather than developing the ability to derive conclusions on his/her own. In addition, the student will shortchange himself/herself and miss the pleasure of reading excellent literature. Finally, research shows that reading high quality writing is the most effective tool for improving writing and writing style. Clearly, use of a plot summary cannot achieve the goal of experiencing good writing firsthand.
- **Cliffs/Monarch/Spark notes or other such notes are not allowed on campus.** In keeping with our position stated above, we do not allow the students to bring these notes to school. No notes of this type are ever allowed for use on "open book" tests. [This includes accessing such notes via Internet.]