



LOUDONVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL 12TH GRADE ENGLISH SUMMER READING LIST

Book One: Read the following required book, carefully noting all writing expectations.

Conquering the College Admissions Essay in 10 Steps by Alan Gelb. Get a “head start” on your college application essay. See the assignment shown below and complete it as part of your summer reading. The college application essay rough draft should be typed on a separate sheet (see the instructions that follow) and is due on the first day of school.

Book Two: You pick it! Select your own piece of literature independently OR from the recommended reading list below. Be sure that it meets the following requirements:

- New—cannot be something previously read
- At least 150 pages of text
- Any genre (autobiography, novel, Christian living, etc.)
- On or above grade level (if in doubt, research reading levels online)
- Parent approved (signature required before reading)
- You **may** select another novel from the required list (below), if desired.

Recommended 12th grade books: The following books are NOT required but are highly recommended and can be used for book two.

- *The Taming of the Shrew* by William Shakespeare. A comedy based on the war between the sexes. Katharina, known to have a temper, is thought never to marry—but her father insists her younger sister will not marry until she is. Will two young men be able to “tame” Katharina?
- *As You Like It* by William Shakespeare. A Comedy. Duke Frederick kicks his brother off his throne—but he allows his daughter, Rosalind, to live with them at the request of his daughter, Celia. The cousins live happily until Rosalind is banished, and Celia and Rosalind escape into the forest together . . . humorous adventures ensue.
- *King Lear* by William Shakespeare. King Lear is a tragedy by William Shakespeare. The title character descends into madness after disposing of his estate between two of his three daughters based on their flattery, bringing tragic consequences for all.
- *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen. The intrigues and injustices suffered by a family living under the rigid class system of 18th century Britain. Two characters find a balance between sense and sensibility in life and love.
- *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley. Gothic novel of the nineteenth century which traces the perils of creating life in the lab. One misfortune follows another in this wildly unraveling tale.

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- *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde. A Victorian portrait of British aristocracy that looks at human vanities and weaknesses and their consequences.
- *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by R. L. Stevenson. This story is best known for the personality split between good and evil. A London lawyer investigates strange occurrences between his old friend Dr. Jekyll and the misanthropic Mr. Hyde.
- *The Chosen* by Chaim Potok. A post Holocaust coming-of-age novel set in NYC among various sects of Judaism.
- *Things Fall Apart* by Achebe. An insider's look at colonialism in the more modern (1950s) setting of Nigeria.
- *Pygmalion* by G.B. Shaw. A tour of Victorian society relating to issues of social position and self-realization. This story was later adapted into the film & drama *My Fair Lady*.
- *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis. Inspired by Dante's *Inferno*, this fictitious rendering of hell is insightful and witty. Lewis pinpoints the foundations of hell and those who are in it.
- *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins. A 19th century mystery, known to be one of the most rapid sellers of its time. Told from more than one point of view, figure out who the mysterious woman in white was, where she came from, and how she got there.
- *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. A retelling of Afghanistan's tumultuous recent history through the eyes of a young boy. It is a moving journey of friendship and betrayal in a society of severe class division. (Note: Mature readers)

***Important Note:** AP English students must read a total of three books.

See separate **AP English 12** summer reading list at www.lcs.org for more instructions.

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Book One (required reading): Read Alan Gelb's *Conquering the College Admissions Essay in 10 Steps* and write a complete rough draft of a college application essay based on one of the following prompts **OR** using an actual prompt from a college you will apply to. (100 points)

- Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced.
- Discuss some issue of personal, local, national, or international concern and its importance.
- Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.
- Describe a character in fiction, a historical figure, or a creative work (as in art, music, etc.) that has had an influence on you, and explain that influence.
- A range of academic interests, personal perspectives, and life experiences adds much to the educational mix. Given your personal background, describe an experience that illustrates what you would bring to the diversity in a college community or an encounter you have had that demonstrated the importance of diversity to you.

In addition to your essay draft, type a response showing how you incorporated and applied instruction from Mr. Gelb's book by noting a **minimum of three specific references from the text**. Include the **page number** and **quoted instructions** (at least the first five words of the sentence that includes the instructions) that you used to write the essay.

Write your **typed college essay draft** using the following guidelines.

- Font size - 12 point
- Times New Roman
- Show **clear understanding** of the assignment.
- **Edit carefully** for effective use of punctuation, spelling, capitalization, sentence structure, and usage.
- **Revise** for clear and accurate ideas.
- Staple student and parent **signature document to front** of the final printed assignment.
- Maximum length of written response: **2 pages**

NOTE: Your typed response is **due the FIRST day** of English class.
Ten points will be deducted per day late.

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Book Two (student selection): **Be prepared to write an **in-class response** after reading your selected literary work. To be prepared for this in-class response, be sure you know the following information about your book.

- **Characters**
- **Setting:** the time and place
- **Context:** the important outside events occurring around the characters that influence the ideas in a literary work (i.e: a war, a government change, racial discrimination, a financial crisis, etc.)
- **Plot:** the events in a literary work and their sequence
- **Themes:** a major overarching or underlying idea in a literary work; an idea that an author repeats, revealing it as significant for readers to consider (ex: love, friendship, bitterness, hatred, despair, suffering, marriage, hope, death, faith, etc.)
- **Motifs:** an image, sound, action, idea or figure that repeats. It has symbolic significance and contributes toward a theme. Though similar to theme, it is not a central idea in a story; instead, it develops or explains a theme
- **Symbols:** An object representing another to give it a deeper and more significant meaning that is different from its literal sense. (Sometimes an idea, action, or event can have symbolic value) (ex: a dove could symbolize peace; a rose could symbolize hope or love; a chain could symbolize union or imprisonment, etc.)

Important Reminder: Accessing any information through outside sources, **including online material**, is **strictly prohibited** because it defeats the purpose of the assignment.
Doing so will result in a **zero** for a major project grade.

Reminder: All the books should be new – not previously read.

I read the books:

- 1) *Conquering the College Admissions Essay in 10 Steps*
- 2) _____

I read (**no films** or **re-read**) _____% of my two books and completed all the tasks before the first day of school.

Student Signature: _____

I confirm that my child completed his/her summer reading and had my approval for both books before he/she began reading.

Parent Signature: _____

***Staple this 1/2 sheet to front of the final copy**