



LOUDONVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL 9TH GRADE SUMMER READING LIST

Book One: Read **one of the following** books:

- *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles. One all boys school, a few new friends, and the trials they face as they grow in the midst of a distant (but growing ever-closer) war.
- *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott. A realistic portrayal of life growing up in the 19th century with a few eccentric sisters, belief-driven parents, and the general struggles of growing up together.
- *Watership Down* by Richard Adams. The story of rabbits (yes, rabbits) determined to overcome obstacles between each other and outsiders and to improve their living conditions. A readable story that has more action adventure and application to humans than you might imagine . . .
- *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Is it science? Is it fiction? Is it real? Is it dreamed? . . . There's a beast in town, and trouble is brewing . . . but can Sherlock decipher the puzzle before more lives are lost?

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 (above), if desired.

Recommended 9th grade books:

- *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmund Rostand. This story is the timeless classic of the man, the nose, the love story . . . told with great emotion and empathy for the love-lorn Cyrano.
- *The Color of Water* by James McBride. A boy's quest of his mother's mysterious parentage answers questions about his own identity. The book is written in alternating chapters—his point of view and his mother's.
- *The Iliad* by Homer. The classic companion to *The Odyssey* fills in the heroic details that document the Trojan War. A tale of adventure filled with the intrigue of Greek mythology.

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- ***The Story of My Life*** by Helen Keller. This dramatic biography is the first-hand account of the amazing life of the deaf and blind author, Helen Keller. Hear her incredible story of perseverance through nearly impossible circumstances.
- ***Samurai's Tale*** by Erik Haugaard. A Japanese boy grows up fast when his family dies during a time of war. He grows up to be a Samurai warrior, facing extreme danger in the name of honor.
- ***I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced*** by Nujood Ali and Delphine Minoui. "I am a simple village girl who has always obeyed the orders of my father and brother. Since forever, I have learned to say yes to everything. Today I have decided to say no."
- ***Let the Circle Be Unbroken*** by Mildred Taylor. A story taking place in the south during the Great Depression, this sequel to *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry* shows the devastating effects of racial prejudice.
- ***Jacob Have I Loved*** by Katherine Patterson. This dramatic story of two sisters examines one sister's search for her identity as she struggles to understand who God is in her life.
- ***Taliesin*** by Stephen Lawhead. An epic tale of fantasy that previews the dawning of the Arthurian Era and is a must read for all adventure seekers!
- ***Life as We Knew It*** by Susan Pfeffer. A survivor's tale of a global disaster filled with terrifying implications on our ordinary lives
- ***Peter Pan*** by J.M. Barrie. Was Peter Pan wasn't the character Walt Disney portrayed him to be? . . . find out in the pages of this adventurous tale.
- ***The Princess Bride*** by William Goldman (A.K.A. S. Morgenstern). Rodents of Unusual Size (R.O.U.S.), quicksand, and fiery forests? Romance and adventure combine into a hilarious story enjoyed by men & women alike.
- ***Percy Jackson & the Olympians (Series- pick one)*** by Rick Riordan. A troubled boy learns he is a demigod. How cool! What is not so cool is that all sorts of mythological monsters are after him . . . yikes.
- ***The Hunger Games (Series- pick one)*** by Suzanne Collins. A story of an extremely "messy" dystopian society where "good days" are few, and survival is every resident's primary goal.
- ***Inkheart (Series- pick one)*** by Cornelia Funke. Ever wondered what would happen if book characters came to life? . . . This novel mixes reality and fiction; imagine the adventure . . .

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Expectations and format for book one (required reading): Write a **typed response** for your required reading selection that responds to the questions below. Use the following requirements:

- Font size - 12 point
- Times New Roman
- Show **clear understanding** of the assignment and the text.
- Show **thoroughness** and depth of analysis (details and examples but not plot summary).
- **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 final printed project.
- Maximum length of written response: **two pages**

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

Directions: For book one, answer the following questions. Please number each answer.

1. Give the **title** and **author** of the book and the **date** you finished reading it. (5 points)
2. Write out **two thoughtful discussion questions** you could ask about this book. Be sure your questions show reflection and are not “yes” or “no” questions. (5 points each)
3. Write a brief paragraph **answering** one of your two questions (#2). (10 points)
4. What two **brief** passages should be revisited? Copy them down, note the page numbers, and explain why you chose them. Noteworthy passages could be provocative, controversial, informative, humorous, sad, ironic, etc. (20 points per passage and detailed response)
5. Write a paragraph in which you make **a detailed and thoughtful connection** between this book and another work (movie, play, poem, novel, musical composition, scripture) or real life. (15 points)

Choose 6a or 6b:

- 6a. Write out **10 vocabulary words** from the book that are new to you and give their **definitions**. Then, **use** each of the words properly in a sentence. **Underline** the vocabulary words. (20 points)
- 6b. Choose **a theme** from the book read and **give three or more** specific examples of where this theme is seen in the work. (20 points)

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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 books should be new - not previously read.

I read the books:

1) **Circle:** *A Separate Peace* **OR** *Little Women* **OR** *Watership Down* **OR**
The Hound of the Baskervilles

2) _____

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

Student Signature: _____

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

Parent Signature: _____

***Staple this ½ sheet to the front of the final copy**