

AQUINAS ACADEMY
2010 Summer Reading List
Middle School

Summer Reading Requirements Overview

6th Grade - Two books for English class and one additional book for science (see below).

7th Grade - Two books for English class and a Science Fair project (see below).

8th Grade - Two books for English class and one additional book for science. In addition, 8th graders should begin work on their Science Fair project (see below).

English Class Requirements

For book number one, students will give an oral report in class on the **second** day of school. This report should include information about the setting, characters, plot, and theme of the book, as well as the student's opinion of the book. However, this report should **not** be just an ordinary book report. Instead, students are encouraged (and **required**) to be as **creative** as possible. **Do something different!**

Some suggestions include (but are not limited to):

- act** (and dress) as one of the main characters and tell us your side of things.
- create** a puppet show.
- make** a mobile from items related to the book and then explain them.
- prepare** a television commercial about the book.
- present** an important scene from the book using masks.
- design** a poster to help explain a key point, character, or theme.
- "**pitch**" this novel to a prospective movie studio.

This report should be memorized, but the student may occasionally refer to note cards. The report should be between 2-3 minutes in length (2-4 minutes for 8th graders).

For book number two, students should carefully and completely answer the questions listed later in these instructions. Please follow these requirements:

- do all work in ink or type it on a computer; all work must be neat and legible.
- copy the question before each answer; skip a line between the question and its answer.
- write in complete sentences; some answers may only need to be one or two sentences long, but others will require that the student write a paragraph or perhaps two.

This written work is due the first week of school.

(English Requirements Continued)

Be sure to read the full-length novel, not the abridged or young readers' edition.

The choices for each grade are listed here:

Grade 6

Little Women--Louisa May Alcott
Number the Stars--Lois Lowry
The Bronze Bow--Elizabeth George Speare
The Cay--Theodore Taylor
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer--Mark Twain
Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm--Kate Douglas Wiggin

Grade 7

Murder on the Orient Express--Agatha Christie
The Hound of the Baskervilles--Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
Anne of Green Gables--L. M. Montgomery
Hatchet--Gary Paulsen
The Witch of Blackbird Pond--Elizabeth George Speare
Dragonsong--Anne McCaffrey

Grade 8

Jane Eyre--Charlotte Bronte
My Antonia--Willa Cather
Great Expectations--Charles Dickens
The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde--Robert Louis Stevenson
The Time Machine--H. G. Wells
Fellowship of the Ring
The Two Towers
Return of the King—J.R.R. Tolkein

(English Requirements Continued)

Student's Name _____

Title of Novel _____

Author of Novel _____

1. Where and when does this book take place? How is the setting important to this story?
2. Who is the protagonist--the main character--in the book?
3. What kind of person is the main character, and why do you think he/she behaves this way?
4. What challenge or conflict does the main character encounter?
5. How is the conflict resolved?
6. In what specific ways does the main character change throughout this story?
7. Choose a sentence or short passage from this book that you think is important or very wise. Copy it and then explain what it means to you.
8. What is the lesson that you learned from this book? How can you apply it to your life?
9. What one thing would you change about this book and why? How would you change it? Be very specific in your explanation here.
10. On a scale of 1-10(low to high), how would you rate this novel? Give **at least three** specific reasons for your rating.

Science Class Requirements

This year, the third book for grades 6 and 8 (see 7th grade and 8th grade science fair requirements below) should be one of the following biographies of scientists:

- 1) *Gregor Mendel: Genetics Pioneer*, by Della Yannuzzi
- 2) *Louis Pasteur, Revolutionary Scientist*, by Allison Lassieur
- 3) *Marie Curie, A Scientific Pioneer*, by Allison Lassieur
- 4) *The Wright Brothers, Inventors of the Airplane*, by Bernard Ryan, Jr.
- 5) *Thomas Edison, The Man Who Lit Up the World*, by Martin Woodside

The first four choices are books that are hard-bound, library quality books. Because these four books are not stocked in bookstores and because of the expense of ordering a hard-bound book online, we have purchased multiple used copies of each of these four biographies and they will be available in the school office to be lent out for up to two weeks at a time throughout the summer. The last choice, Thomas Edison, the Man Who Lit Up the World is a paperback that may be purchased in bookstores or ordered online (\$5.95).

For each of these choices, the student is to answer in written form the following (1 or 2 paragraphs for each point):

Choose a scientific theory, an invention or process created by the scientist that you read about and:

1. discuss how this theory, discovery or invention changed the way we think about the physical world.
2. describe the specific steps of the scientific method that the scientist/inventor used to test or prove his hypothesis or in constructing his invention.

This written work will be due the third week of school.

Science Fair Requirements

7TH Grade

Life Science students in 7th grade at Aquinas are required to do a science fair project. This project will unfold gradually as the year progresses and students are taught the various parts of a proper scientific study. The science fair will take place in the early spring but students will receive progress grades throughout the year.

In place of a summer reading assignment in science, students who will be entering the 7th grade will be required to choose and describe two possible topics for their science fair project.

Students are required to record all of their work (ideas, notes, references, observations, data and calculations) in a journal. This should be a one-subject spiral notebook or a composition notebook. Please do not use larger notebooks.

The topics chosen can come from any branch of science. Try to choose something that would be interesting, challenging and enjoyable for you! Be sure the materials and equipment needed for the project can be easily obtained. (I can help with some materials, such as pH paper, and can lend equipment, such as balances.) Please note, no non-human vertebrates may be used. Experiments involving humans require special permission and completion of informed consent forms.

The topic you choose should involve asking a question that can be answered by experiment and that will, preferably, provide numerical data. Model building and demonstration type projects are not acceptable.

What should you do this summer?

1. Obtain a science journal. Leave the first page blank for a table of contents and begin numbering each page after that. Pages may not be torn from the journal. Write in ink.
2. Look for ideas for your project. Libraries have science fair books and there are many ideas available on the internet. Be sure to write down the sources for your ideas.
3. For each idea: write the question you will try to answer and a brief summary of how you might proceed to answer the question.

These topic ideas will be collected and graded during the second week of school.

If you have any questions about the suitability of a project or you want to get started before school starts, you may contact me at home this summer. I look forward to seeing you all in Life Science next year!

Mrs. Mary Dill

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8TH GRADE

8th Grade

Preparation for 8th grade science fair project:

Students in 8th grade will be required to improve or expand the project they completed in 7th grade. They should keep all of the materials they generated for that project. They will also have the option to do an entirely new project for which they will need to gain teacher approval.

Over the summer, students should write in their journals ideas for improving or expanding the experimental part of their project as well as improvements to the other written parts such as the background research. They may start this work before returning to school. Students will not be allowed to submit an unchanged project.

The new experimentation needs to be completed by early November and an abstract written. Students whose projects are judged to be superior will be given the option to compete in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Sciences competition. All student projects will be judged and graded at Aquinas, the grade becoming part of their science grade.

Please feel free to direct any questions you may have to Mrs. Dill by phone or e-mail this summer.

Mrs. Mary Dill

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8TH GRADE