

2021 High School Summer Reading Instructions

All summer long, bake or build, study cloud shapes, splash in creeks and swimming pools, count the stars in the night sky, love every warm minute of freedom. In between, read **three** of the books listed for your grade level; note that you may substitute **one** of the of the science selections (or the required reading for AP Chem) listed on the final page to satisfy one of the **three** required works.

- * Compose **four** journal entries per work. While conversational in tone, they should adhere to “good writing standards.” Think of this exercise as a way to carry on an honest dialogue about the work with a fellow reader.

- * Entries should be thoughtful and concise—no more than two to three paragraphs per entry.

- * **AVOID SUMMARIZING.** To reiterate that point: **AVOID SUMMARIZING!** Assume that the teacher is familiar with the book’s content. From that point, begin to reflect, question, and evaluate.

- * Adapt your reflections to the discipline associated with the work. For example, with a literature selection, you might consider conflicts, themes, characterization, and writing style, whereas with a science selection, you might think about methods of problem solving and experimentation.

- * Compose while your insights are fresh. If stopping to write interferes with reading pleasure, record key ideas or reflections immediately after reading a portion so that you have the “seeds” for later composition.

- * Type journals in double-spaced, 12 point-font. Instead of title pages, simply your place name, title of work, and designated discipline in the upper right-hand corner of the first page.

- * **While teachers of various disciplines may evaluate your journals, points will count toward the first quarter Literature grade:**

20 points—Evidence of critical thought and effort

10 points—Superficial thought and substandard effort

0 points—Failure to submit completed assignment by due date

Due Date: Journals should be submitted through the High School Google Classroom by 9/3.

You may submit your journals anytime during the summer. If you would like a hard copy returned to you, you should submit a hard copy to your Literature teacher (in addition to submitting electronically through the Google Classroom).

* Happy Summer! Happy Reading!

2021 High School Summer Reading List

- 9th**
1. *The Screwtape Letters* C.S. Lewis
Experienced devil gives advice to a novice on how to tempt. Literature
 2. *Ivanhoe* Walter Scott
A crusader fights yet again for his lady and his kidnapped King. Literature
 3. *The Joyful Beggar* Louis de Wohl
Francis of Assisi's journey to sainthood. Literature
 4. *Joan of Arc* Mark Twain
The conquering Maid of Orleans is tried as a heretic. Literature
 5. *The Once and Future King* T.H. White
A masterful retelling of the story of King Arthur's Camelot. Literature
 6. *A Man for All Seasons* (play) Robert Bolt
As Henry VIII strategizes to divorce his wife, Thomas More's act of conscience shakes the world. Literature
- 10th**
1. *To Kill a Mockingbird* Harper Lee
A Southern child learns of prejudice, justice and honor. Literature
 2. *My Life and Hard Times* James Thurber
Short stories and sketches by a first-class humorist. Literature
 3. *Billy Budd* Herman Melville
The false accusation of a beloved sailor has tragic consequences. Literature
 4. *The Grapes of Wrath* John Steinbeck
Farmers, caught in the vortex of the Depression and Dust Bowl, go west. History
 5. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* Harriet Beecher Stowe
This novel galvanized a nation with its dramatization of slavery. History
 6. *Our Town* (a play) Thornton Wilder
If you could choose one day to live over again, which would it be? Literature

11th

1. *Frankenstein* Mary Shelley
Frankenstein and his project: the consequences of creation. Philosophy
2. *The Scarlet Pimpernel* Baroness Constance Orczy
A story of heroism and disguise during the French Revolution. Literature
3. *All Quiet on the Western Front* Erich Maria Remarque
WWI through the eyes of a disillusioned German soldier. Literature
4. *Perelandra* C.S. Lewis
What will another Eve choose in a “Garden of Eden” on another planet?
Religion
5. *Leave it to Psmith* P.G. Wodehouse
Wacky British humor at its finest. Literature
6. *1984* George Orwell
In a totalitarian society, one man dares to think. History

12th

1. *Anna Karenina* Leo Tolstoy
A remarkable portrait of selfish and selfless love. Literature
2. *Man's Search for Meaning* Victor Frankl
A Jewish psychiatrist offers his life-affirming response to suffering.
Religion
3. *The Guns of August* Barbara Tuchman
An acclaimed history chronicling the critical first month of WW1.
History
4. *Moby Dick* Herman Melville
A sea captain's all-consuming quest to destroy his nemesis. Literature
5. *Kristen Lavansdatter* Sigrid Undset
A willful girl learns lessons of life and love in medieval Norway. Literature
6. *The Count of Monte Cristo* Alexandre Dumas
The ultimate betrayal requires ultimate vengeance - or does it?
Literature

Science Selections

Students are free to choose one of the following selections to fulfill one of the three reading requirements. The selection must be one that you have not previously read.

***Note that selection #6 may be chosen only by grades 10, 11, and 12.**

1. *Galileo's Daughter* (Grades 9-12) Dava Sobel
A fascinating examination of Galileo's struggles and times, inspired by 124 surviving letters written to his daughter, a cloistered nun. Science

2. *Longitude: The True Story* (Grades 9-12) Dava Sobel
A biography of John Harrison, an unschooled English clock-maker, who accomplished one of the earliest and greatest triumphs of technology: a clock that could carry "true time" from one port to any other in the world. Science

3. *The Great Bridge: The Epic Story of the Building of the Brooklyn Bridge* (Grades 9-12) David McCullough
A compelling account of an engineering marvel that defines the American spirit. Science

4. *The Omnivore's Dilemma* (Grades 9-12) Michael Pollan
An examination of the food chain, growing practices, and technologies behind foods that constitute the American diet--and a call to eat more conscientiously for the sake of both our health and planet. Science

5. *The Double Helix* (Grades 9-12) James Watson
A thrilling and honest account of the race to identify the structure of DNA as related by one of the scientists. The breakthrough by James Watson and Francis Crick revolutionized biochemistry and merited a Nobel Prize. Science

- *6. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (Grades 10-12) Rebecca Skloot
The revealing story of how the cancer cells of a poor Afro-American woman are harvested without her consent and grown in cultures. This harvesting propels scientific breakthroughs such as polio vaccine and cloning, but raises serious issues in bioethics. Science