

CCA Summer Reading

Mrs. Hanley/ Miss Burke – Grade 10

Dear Student,

Attached, you will find the summer reading list for your class. Your list consists of 10 or more carefully selected books. Each book is accompanied by a brief review or description that should provide you with enough information about the plot to determine whether or not it may be of interest to you. Your summer assignment is as follows:

The Reading –

1. Select and read any two books (minimum) from the list.
2. Decide which book you found most interesting (and best understood).
3. Choose one of the book reporting written activities on the attached sheet (the circled numbers are the ones available for you to choose from).
4. Complete the activity *with excellence*.
5. ***If you are taking A.P. U.S. History, you must also read a nineteenth or twentieth century biography/autobiography of an American figure.** *Your essay should not be written on this work.

Some suggestions: an American president, a missionary, pastor, or evangelist, a politician, an author or artist

The Book Report Activity –

1. Regardless of the activity you choose, each activity must be *typed, double spaced, and written in size 12 font*.
2. The activity should reflect careful thought and time spent. By its quality and creativity, it should show that you took the assignment seriously and gave your best effort.
3. Length: there is no set length. Follow the guidelines given in the activity description, and keep in mind that something short and hastily written will receive the grade it deserves.

Final Note –

This may not be the type of reading you're used to, or would necessarily choose for yourself, but pray that God would grant you an open mind as you tackle these books. They're called classics for a reason, and each has something to teach us about human nature and the nature of God. Don't feel limited to the required two – if you have time and the desire, read as many books as you possibly can! Extra reading expands your vocabulary, which leads to better thinking and writing skills. Those skills, in turn, lead to greater opportunities both within school and beyond!

Book Reporting: 10th Grade Written Activities

These alternative assignments to the standard "book report" can be used for reporting on fiction.

1. Pretend you are a book critic and write a book review for a newspaper. Tell the name of the book, its author, something about the main characters, plot, setting, and conflict. Do not reveal the ending, but evaluate the book and the author's writing ability.
2. Rewrite the ending of the story. Be sure it is plausible and different from the one the author uses. Your ending should begin at the climax and take the main characters through to a different resolution or solution to their basic problem.
3. Write a one-page publicity article promoting the book. Be specific, but don't tell the story or the ending. Remember, you are trying to interest someone in reading the book, not summarizing it. Reading book jackets should help you get ideas.
4. Pretend you are a news reporter assigned to the obituary page. Write brief obituaries about two characters from the book. Give pertinent information about their lives, showing readers what you have learned about them and the legacies they leave.
5. If the book you read was adapted for television or the movies, write two long paragraphs (one page) comparing and contrasting the book and the television or movie version. In the first paragraph, tell the ways the versions were similar. In the second, tell the ways in which they differed.
6. In what period of history was the story set? Go to the library and research the era. Add what you learned about the customs, dress, language, and so forth from the book to what you learn from your research. Summarize on one full page the historical period.
7. Take one interesting incident from the story. Use it as a springboard to write a short story for a young person of elementary school age. Limit yourself to two or three pages.
8. Compare and contrast two books you have recently read. Tell all the ways they are alike and all the ways they are different. Be sure to list the complete titles and authors.

10th English Summer Reading Book List

1. *Animal Farm* – George Orwell

Amazon.com: Since its publication in 1946, George Orwell's fable of a workers' revolution gone wrong has rivaled Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* as the Shortest Serious Novel It's OK to Write a Book Report About. (The latter is three pages longer and less fun to read.) Fueled by Orwell's intense disillusionment with Soviet Communism, *Animal Farm* is a nearly perfect piece of writing, both an engaging story and an allegory that actually works. When the downtrodden beasts of Manor Farm oust their drunken human master and take over management of the land, all are awash in collectivist zeal. Everyone willingly works overtime, productivity soars, and for one brief, glorious season, every belly is full. The animals' Seven Commandment credo is painted in big white letters on the barn. All animals are equal. No animal shall drink alcohol, wear clothes, sleep in a bed, or kill a fellow four-footed creature. Those that go upon four legs or wings are friends and the two-legged are, by definition, the enemy. Too soon, however, the pigs, who have styled themselves leaders by virtue of their intelligence, succumb to the temptations of privilege and power. "We pigs are brainworkers. The whole management and organization of the farm depend on us. Day and night, we are watching over your welfare. It is for your sake that we drink that milk and eat those apples." While this swinish brotherhood sells out the revolution, cynically editing the Seven Commandments to excuse their violence and greed, the common animals are once again left hungry and exhausted, no better off than in the days when humans ran the farm. Satire *Animal Farm* may be, but it's a stony reader who remains unmoved when the stalwart workhorse, Boxer, having given his all to his comrades, is sold to the glue factory to buy booze for the pigs. Orwell's view of Communism is bleak indeed, but given the history of the Russian people since 1917, his pessimism has an air of prophecy. --Joyce Thompson

2. *The Chosen* – Chaim Potok

Amazon.com: Few stories offer more warmth, wisdom, or generosity than this tale of two boys, their fathers, their friendship, and the chaotic times in which they live. Though on the surface it explores religious faith--the intellectually committed as well as the passionately observant--the struggles addressed in *The Chosen* are familiar to families of all faiths and in all nations.

In 1940s Brooklyn, New York, an accident throws Reuven Malthers and Danny Saunders together. Despite their differences (Reuven is a Modern Orthodox Jew with an intellectual, Zionist father; Danny is the brilliant son and rightful heir to a Hasidic rebbe), the young men form a deep, if unlikely, friendship. Together they negotiate adolescence, family conflicts, the crisis of faith engendered when Holocaust stories begin to emerge in the U.S., loss, love, and the journey to adulthood. The intellectual and spiritual clashes between fathers, between each son and his own father, and between the two young men, provide a unique backdrop for this exploration of fathers, sons, faith, loyalty, and, ultimately, the power of love.

3. *Into Thin Air* – Jon Krakauer

Amazon.com: *Into Thin Air* is a riveting first-hand account of a catastrophic expedition up Mount Everest. In March 1996, *Outside* magazine sent veteran journalist and seasoned climber Jon Krakauer on an expedition led by celebrated Everest guide Rob Hall. Despite the expertise of Hall and the other leaders, by the end of summit day eight people were dead. Krakauer's book is at once the story of the ill-fated adventure and an analysis of the factors leading up to its tragic end. Written within months of the events it chronicles, *Into Thin Air* clearly evokes the majestic Everest landscape. As the journey up the mountain progresses, Krakauer puts it in context by recalling the triumphs and perils of other Everest trips

throughout history. The author's own anguish over what happened on the mountain is palpable as he leads readers to ponder timeless questions.

4. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* – Harriet Beecher Stowe

Amazon.com: This is one of those books that everybody has heard about but few people these days have actually read. It deserves to be read - not simply because it is the basis for symbols so deeply ingrained in American culture that we no longer realize their source, nor because it is one of the best-selling books of all time. This is a book that changed history. Harriet Beecher Stowe was appalled by slavery, and she took one of the few options open to nineteenth century women who wanted to affect public opinion: she wrote a novel, a huge, enthralling narrative that claimed the heart, soul, and politics of pre-Civil War Americans. It is unabashed propaganda and overtly moralistic, an attempt to make whites - North and South - see slaves as mothers, fathers, and people with (Christian) souls. In a time when women might see the majority of their children die, Harriet Beecher Stowe portrays beautiful Eliza fleeing slavery to protect her son. In a time when many whites claimed slavery had "good effects" on blacks, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* paints pictures of three plantations, each worse than the other, where even the best plantation leaves a slave at the mercy of fate or debt. By twentieth-century standards, her propaganda verges on melodrama, and it is clear that even while arguing for the abolition of slavery she did not rise above her own racism. Yet her questions remain penetrating even today: "Is man ever a creature to be trusted with wholly irresponsible power?"

5. *2001: A Space Odyssey* – Arthur C. Clarke

Amazon.com: When an enigmatic monolith is found buried on the moon, scientists are amazed to discover that it's at least 3 million years old. Even more amazing, after it's unearthed the artifact releases a powerful signal aimed at Saturn. What sort of alarm has been triggered? To find out, a manned spacecraft, the *Discovery*, is sent to investigate. Its crew is highly trained--the best--and they are assisted by a self-aware computer, the ultra-capable HAL 9000. But HAL's programming has been patterned after the human mind a little too well. He is capable of guilt, neurosis, even murder, and he controls every single one of *Discovery's* components. The crew must overthrow this digital psychotic if they hope to make their rendezvous with the entities that are responsible not just for the monolith, but maybe even for human civilization.

Clarke wrote this novel while Stanley Kubrick created the film, the two collaborating on both projects. The novel is much more detailed and intimate, and definitely easier to comprehend. Even though history has disproved its "predictions," it's still loaded with exciting and awe-inspiring science fiction. --*Brooks Peck*

6. *Night* – Elie Wiesel

Amazon.com: In Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel's memoir *Night*, a scholarly, pious teenager is wracked with guilt at having survived the horror of the Holocaust and the genocidal campaign that consumed his family. His memories of the nightmare world of the death camps present him with an intolerable question: how can the God he once so fervently believed in have allowed these monstrous events to occur? There are no easy answers in this harrowing book, which probes life's essential riddles with the lucid anguish only great literature achieves. It marks the crucial first step in Wiesel's lifelong project to bear witness for those who died.

7. ***And Then There were None*** – Agatha Christie

Amazon.com: Considered the best mystery novel ever written by many readers, *And Then There Were None* is the story of 10 strangers, each lured to Indian Island by a mysterious host. Once his guests have arrived, the host accuses each person of murder. Unable to leave the island, the guests begin to share their darkest secrets--until they begin to die.

8. ***The Cross and the Switchblade*** – David Wilkerson

Amazon.com: The tortured face of a young killer, one of seven boys on trial for a brutal murder, started country preacher David Wilkerson on his lonely crusade to the most dangerous streets in the world. Violent gangs ruled by warlords, drug pushers and pimps held the streets of New York's ghettos in an iron grip. It was into this world that David Wilkerson stepped, armed only with the simple message of God's love and the promise of the Holy Spirit's power. Then the miracles began to happen. *The Cross and the Switchblade* is one of the most inspiring and challenging true stories of all time. It has sold millions of copies throughout the world and has been made into a feature film.

9. ***Walden*** – Henry David Thoreau

Amazon.com: 1845, Henry David Thoreau moved into a cabin by Walden Pond. With the intention of immersing himself in nature and distancing himself from the distractions of social life, Thoreau sustained his retreat for just over two years. More popular than ever, “Walden” is a paean to the virtues of simplicity and self-sufficiency.

10. ***The Scarlet Letter*** – Nathaniel Hawthorne

Amazon.com: For nearly a century and a half, Hawthorne's masterpiece has mesmerized readers and critics alike. One of the greatest American novels, its themes of sin, guilt, and redemption, woven through a story of adultery in the early days of the Massachusetts Colony, are revealed with remarkable psychological penetration and understanding of the human heart.

SUMMER READING SIGN-OFF FORM

I have read at least two books from Mrs. Hanley's/Mr. Roaf's summer reading list and have completed the book reporting activity to the best of my ability.

Student Signature:

My child has read at least the required amount of books from the summer reading list and I have seen a completed (typed) book reporting activity.

Parent Signature:
