

Because the English teachers at Grace Christian School are committed to a strong reading program for our students, we assign classic literature throughout the year that is specifically selected to coincide with some of their other disciplines such as history, geography, and vocabulary. To further our vision for strong readers, we believe in continuing reading expectations for the summer in preparation for life in general and specifically for success in high school, pre-college testing, and college itself. Additional explanation of our vision for the summer reading program is included in our Summer Reading Purpose Statement on the back of this letter.

In the next week or so, the summer reading lists can be accessed from our website - [www.gcswarriors.org](http://www.gcswarriors.org) - **under Academics → Summer Resources for Students**. Summer reading assignments will count as test grades. When choosing books from the list, it is important to keep in mind the following:

- **All summer reading books must not have been read prior to this summer.**
- **Students must be sure they have acquired the original, complete versions of their chosen novels; the English department will not accept abridged or condensed versions.**

The student must read 2 books chosen from the attached lists; one books from the English reading list and one book from the social studies-science reading list. Students must also complete the fiction or nonfiction report required for each book. (Templates for reports are located at the end of 9th/10th book list). These reports will be graded on quality of content. **Note: 10th graders must read *The Odyssey* (Fitzgerald trans.) as their English reading list requirement and must complete corresponding assignments. Summer Reading assignments will be due the first full day of class.**

A parent and the student will need to sign the statement below and return to the English teacher the first full day of school. Please contact me if you have any questions.

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I have read in full the following book this summer.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### The Purpose Behind Required Summer Reading at GCS

The Grace Christian School summer reading program is an important aspect of our academic program, especially considering what studies reveal:

- The number of books read in summer is consistently related to academic gains.
- Significant vocabulary gains take place when students read in the summer.
- Significant fluency gains take place through summer reading programs.

When selecting books for our different grade-level summer reading lists, faculty and staff at GCS make choices based on historical and subject significance, literary merit, and the goal of fostering a life-long love for reading in all of our students. It is with these and the following thoughts in mind that we require reading over the summer:

- To provide the opportunity for students to keep literacy skills sharpened.
- To motivate students to read for pleasure while guiding them to make sound choices (using an approved book list which includes a mix of classic and contemporary options, as well as a variety of genres).
- To foster the correlation between reading and writing skills.
- To encourage our students to discover and develop a sense of ownership in their reading lives.

## Summer Reading List

## English Reading List

*\*Note: The given page lengths are approximations; different publishers' editions will have varying lengths because of style and/or additional editorial material included!*

**Emma, Jane Austen**

Beautiful, clever, rich-- and single-- Emma Woodhouse is perfectly content with her life and sees no need for either love or marriage. Nothing, however, delights her more than interfering in the romantic lives of others. But when she ignores the warnings of her good friend Mr. Knightley and attempts to arrange a suitable match for her protegee Harriet Smith, her carefully laid plans soon unravel and have consequences that she never expected. With its imperfect but charming heroine and its witty and subtle exploration of relationships, Emma is often seen as Jane Austen's most flawless work. **#romanticcomedy #socialsatire #19thcenturyEngland #matchmaking (approx. 300 pages)**

**Sense and Sensibility, Jane Austen**

Marianne Dashwood wears her heart on her sleeve, and when she falls in love with the dashing but unsuitable John Willoughby she ignores her sister Elinor's warning that her impulsive behaviour leaves her open to gossip. Meanwhile Elinor, always sensitive to social convention, is struggling to conceal her own romantic disappointment, even from those closest to her. Through their parallel experience of love—and its threatened loss—the sisters learn that sense must mix with sensibility if they are to find personal happiness in a society where status and money govern the rules of love. **#romanticcomedy #socialsatire #19thcenturyEngland (approx. 300 pages)**

**The Pilgrim's Progress, Bunyan**

John Bunyan began *The Pilgrim's Progress* while he was in prison for conducting unauthorised Baptist religious services outside of the Church of England. In this classic allegory, devout everyman Christian abandons his family and the City of Destruction and sets off to find salvation. His path is straight but not easy, and he is beset by trials, including the terrible violence of the destructive Apollyon and the Giant Despair, as he pursues his pilgrimage through the Slough of Despond, the Delectable Mountains and Vanity Fair towards the Celestial City. In the second part of the narrative his wife, Christiana, is escorted by Great-Heart through the same difficult terrain. Written with the urgency of a persecuted faith and a fiery imagination, *The Pilgrim's Progress* is a spiritual as well as a literary classic. **#christianallegory #symbolism #christianclassics (approx. 320 pages)**

**Fahrenheit 451, Bradbury**

Ray Bradbury's internationally acclaimed novel is a masterwork of twentieth-century literature set in a bleak, dystopian future. Guy Montag is a fireman. In his world, where television rules and literature is on the brink of extinction, firemen start fires rather than put them out. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life. But then he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn't live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television. When tragedy strikes, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known. He starts hiding books in his home, and when his pilfering is discovered, the fireman has to run for his life. **#sciencefiction #dystopian #futuristic #allegory #adventure (approx. 250 pages)**

**The Good Earth, Buck**

This novel tells the poignant tale of a Chinese farmer and his family in old, agrarian China. The humble Wang Lung glories in the soil he works, nurturing the land as it nurtures him and his family. Nearby, the nobles of the House of Hwang consider themselves above the land and its workers; but they will soon meet their own downfall. Hard times come upon Wang Lung and his family when flood and drought force them to seek work in the city. The working people riot, breaking into the homes of the rich and forcing them to flee. When Wang Lung shows mercy to one noble and is rewarded, he begins to rise in the world, even as the House of Hwang falls. **#nobelprizewinner #China #Chineseculturaltraditions #fatherandsonthemes (approx. 350 pages)**

**The Last of the Mohicans, Cooper**

The wild rush of action in this classic frontier adventure story has made *The Last of the Mohicans* the most popular of James Fenimore Cooper's Leatherstocking Tales. Deep in the forests of upper New York State, the brave woodsman Hawkeye (Natty Bumppo) and his loyal Mohican friends Chingachgook and Uncas become embroiled in the bloody battles of the French and Indian War. The abduction of the beautiful Munro sisters by hostile savages, the treachery of the renegade brave Magua, the ambush of innocent settlers, and the thrilling events that lead to the final tragic confrontation between rival war parties create an unforgettable, spine-tingling picture of life on the frontier. And as the idyllic wilderness gives way to the forces of civilization, the novel presents a moving portrayal of a vanishing race and the end of its way of life in the great American forests. **#FrenchandIndianWar #historicalfiction #NativeAmericans #action #adventure #wilderness (approx. 400 pages)**

***David Copperfield*, Dickens (counts as two books)**

*David Copperfield* is the story of a young man's adventures on his journey from an unhappy and impoverished childhood to the discovery of his vocation as a successful novelist. Among the gloriously vivid cast of characters he encounters are his tyrannical stepfather, Mr Murdstone; his formidable aunt, Betsey Trotwood; the eternally humble yet treacherous Uriah Heep; frivolous, enchanting Dora; and the magnificently impecunious Micawber, one of literature's great comic creations. In *David Copperfield*—the novel he described as his "favorite child"—Dickens drew revealingly on his own experiences to create one of his most exuberant & enduringly popular works, filled with tragedy and comedy in equal measure. **#VictorianEngland #adventure #classic #comingofage (approx. 900 pages)**

***Great Expectations*, Dickens**

In what may be Dickens' best novel, humble, orphaned Pip is apprenticed to the dirty work of the forge but dares to dream of becoming a gentleman — and one day, under sudden and enigmatic circumstances, he finds himself in possession of "great expectations." In this gripping tale of crime and guilt, revenge and reward, the compelling characters include Magwitch, the fearful and fearsome convict; Estella, whose beauty is excelled only by her haughtiness; and the embittered Miss Havisham, an eccentric jilted bride. **#VictorianEngland #classstruggle #tragicromance #classic #mystery (approx. 500 pages)**

***Oliver Twist*, Dickens**

The story of the orphan Oliver, who runs away from the workhouse only to be taken in by a den of thieves, shocked readers when it was first published. Dickens' tale of childhood innocence beset by evil depicts the dark criminal underworld of a London peopled by vivid and memorable characters — the arch-villain Fagin, the artful Dodger, the menacing Bill Sikes, and the lovesick Nancy. Combining elements of Gothic Romance, the Newgate Novel and popular melodrama, in *Oliver Twist* Dickens created an entirely new kind of fiction, scathing in its indictment of a cruel society, and pervaded by an unforgettable sense of threat and mystery. **#VictorianLondon #comedy #mystery #classic (approx. 500 pages)**

***The Robe*, Douglas**

A Roman soldier, Marcellus, wins Christ's robe as a gambling prize. He then sets forth on a quest to find the truth about the Nazarene's robe—a quest that reaches to the very roots and heart of Christianity and is set against the vividly limned background of ancient Rome. Here is a timeless story of adventure, faith, and romance, a tale of spiritual longing and ultimate redemption. **#historicalfiction #christianity #Romanempire #adventure #romance (approx. 500 pages)**

***The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, Doyle**

the first and greatest of the short story collections written by Arthur Conan Doyle featuring his famous detective. The twelve Sherlock Holmes adventures included in this anthology: "A Scandal in Bohemia," "The Adventure of the Red-Headed League," "A Case of Identity," "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle," and "The Adventure of the Speckled Band." **#classiclitt #mystery #suspense #shortstorycollection #1900sLondon (approx. 300 pages)**

***The Count of Monte Cristo*, Dumas (counts as 2 books)**

Thrown in prison for a crime he has not committed, Edmond Dantès is confined to the grim fortress of If. There he learns of a great hoard of treasure hidden on the Isle of Monte Cristo and he becomes determined not only to escape, but also to unearth the treasure and use it to plot the destruction of the three men responsible for his incarceration. Dumas' epic tale of suffering and retribution, inspired by a real-life case of wrongful imprisonment, was a huge popular success when it was first serialised in the 1840s. **#action #adventure #revenge #France (approx. 1,000 pages)**

***The Three Musketeers*, Dumas**

One of the most celebrated and popular historical romances ever written. *The Three Musketeers* tells the story of the early adventures of the young Gascon gentleman d'Artagnan and his three friends from the regiment of the King's Musketeers: Athos, Porthos, and Aramis. Under the watchful eye of their patron M. de Treville, the four defend the honour of the regiment against the guards of the Cardinal Richelieu and the honor of the queen against the machinations of the Cardinal himself as the power struggles of 17th-century France are vividly played out in the background. But their most dangerous encounter is with the Cardinal's spy: Milady, one of literature's most memorable female villains. **#17thcenturyFrance #swordfighting #action #adventure #comedy #historicalfiction (approx. 600 pages)**

***The Man in the Iron Mask, Dumas***

In this sequel to *The Three Musketeers*, D'Artagnan remains in the service of the corrupt King Louis XIV after the Three Musketeers have retired and gone their separate ways. Unbeknownst to D'Artagnan, Aramis and Porthos plot to remove the inept king and place the king's twin brother on the throne of France. Meanwhile, a twenty-three-year-old prisoner known only as "Phillippe" wastes away deep inside the Bastille. Forced to wear an iron mask, Phillippe has been imprisoned for eight years, has no knowledge of his true identity, and has not been told what crime he's committed. When the destinies of the king and Phillippe converge, the Three Musketeers and D'Artagnan find themselves caught between conflicting loyalties. **#France #historicalfiction #action #adventure #intrigue (approx. 450 pages)**

***Silas Marner, Eliot***

Embittered by a false accusation, disappointed in friendship and love, the weaver Silas Marner retreats into a long twilight life alone with his loom. . . and his gold. Silas hoards a treasure that kills his spirit until fate steals it from him and replaces it with a golden-haired founding child. Where she came from, who her parents were, and who really stole the gold are the secrets that permeate this moving tale of guilt and innocence. A moral allegory of the redemptive power of love, it is also a finely drawn picture of early nineteenth-century England in the days when spinning wheels hummed busily in the farmhouses, and of a simple way of life that was soon to disappear. **#comingofage #redemption #love #classclit (approx. 260 pages)**

***A Chance to Die, Elliot***

*A Chance to Die* is a vibrant portrayal of Amy Carmichael, an Irish missionary and writer who spent fifty-three years in south India without furlough. There she became known as "Amma," or "mother," as she founded the Dohnavur Fellowship, a refuge for underprivileged children. Amy's life of obedience and courage stands as a model for all who claim the name of Christ. She was a woman with desires and dreams, faults and fears, who gave her life unconditionally to serve her Master. Bringing Amma to life through inspiring photos and compelling biographical narrative, Elisabeth Elliot urges readers to examine the depths of their own commitment to Christ. **#biography #christianity #missionary #India (approx. 380 pages)**

***The Iliad, Homer (must be in verse and full-length)***

Home's epic prequel to *The Odyssey*, this work tells the story of the legendary Trojan war, featuring famous heroes Achilles, Hector, and Agamemnon, as well as the Olympian deities. **#Greekmythology #epic #hero #tragedy #classclit #war #adventure (approx. 680 pages)**

***The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Hugo***

In the vaulted Gothic towers of Notre-Dame lives Quasimodo, the hunchbacked bellringer. Mocked and shunned for his appearance, he is pitied only by Esmerelda, a beautiful gypsy dancer to whom he becomes completely devoted. Esmerelda, however, has also attracted the attention of the sinister archdeacon Claude Frollo, and when she rejects his lecherous approaches, Frollo hatches a plot to destroy her that only Quasimodo can prevent. Victor Hugo's sensational, evocative novel brings life to the medieval Paris he loved, and mourns its passing in one of the greatest historical romances of the nineteenth century. **#gothic #romance #historicalfiction #redemption #19thcenturyFrance (approx. 600 pages)**

***Rifles for Watie, Keith***

This novel tells the story of sixteen-year-old Jeff and his experiences during the American Civil War. Jeff's story is notable as he eventually winds up fighting for both the North and the South (while on a special undercover mission) at different times during the conflict while making new friends on each side. **#historicalfiction #civilwar #comingofage #adventure (approx. 350)**

***C. S. Lewis's Space Trilogy***

**#sciencefiction #spacetravel #christianallegory #socialsatire #adventure**

- Book 1: *Out of the Silent Planet*

In the first novel of C.S. Lewis's classic science fiction trilogy, Dr Ransom, a Cambridge academic, is abducted and taken on a spaceship to the red planet of Malacandra, which he knows as Mars. His captors are plotting to plunder the planet's treasures and plan to offer Ransom as a sacrifice to the creatures who live there. Ransom discovers he has come from the 'silent planet' – Earth – whose tragic story is known throughout the universe. **(approx. 250 pages)**

- Book 2: *Perelandra*

The second novel in Lewis's science fiction trilogy tells of Dr Ransom's voyage to the planet of Perelandra (Venus). Dr Ransom is sent by the Elida to Perelandra (Venus) to battle against evil incarnate and preserve a second Eden from the evil forces present in the possessed body of his enemy, Weston. **(approx. 300 pages)**

- Book 3: *That Hideous Strength*

This final story is set on Earth, and tells of a terrifying conspiracy against humanity. The story surrounds Mark and Jane Studdock, a newly married couple. Mark is a Sociologist who is enticed to join an organisation called N.I.C.E. which aims to control all human life. His wife, meanwhile, has bizarre prophetic dreams about a decapitated scientist, Alcasan. As Mark is drawn inextricably into the sinister organisation, he discovers the truth of his wife's dreams when he meets the literal head of Alcasan which is being kept alive by infusions of blood. Jane seeks help concerning her dreams at a community called St Anne's, where she meets their leader -- Dr Ransom (the main character of the previous two titles in the trilogy). The story ends in a final spectacular scene at the N.I.C.E. headquarters where Merlin appears to confront the powers of Hell. **(approx. 500 pages)**

### ***Mere Christianity, Lewis***

*Mere Christianity* is C.S. Lewis's forceful and accessible doctrine of Christian belief. First heard as informal radio broadcasts and then published as three separate books - *The Case for Christianity*, *Christian Behavior*, and *Beyond Personality* - *Mere Christianity* brings together what Lewis saw as the fundamental truths of the religion. Rejecting the boundaries that divide Christianity's many denominations, C.S. Lewis finds a common ground on which all those who have Christian faith can stand together, proving that "at the centre of each there is something, or a Someone, who against all divergences of belief, all differences of temperament, all memories of mutual persecution, speaks the same voice." **#nonfiction #christianity #apologetics #christianclassic (approx. 190 pages)**

### ***The Screwtape Letters, Lewis***

A masterpiece of satire, this classic has entertained and enlightened readers the world over with its sly and ironic portrayal of human life from the vantage point of Screwtape, a senior tempter in the service of "Our Father Below." At once wildly comic, deadly serious, and strikingly original, C. S. Lewis gives us the correspondence of the worldly-wise old devil to his nephew Wormwood, a novice demon in charge of securing the damnation of an ordinary young man. *The Screwtape Letters* is the most engaging and humorous account of temptation—and triumph over it—ever written. **#play #satire #comedy #christianity #goodvs evil (approx. 270 pages)**

### ***The Great Divorce, Lewis***

In *The Great Divorce*, C.S. Lewis's classic vision of the Afterworld, the narrator boards a bus on a drizzly English afternoon and embarks on an incredible voyage through Heaven and Hell. He meets a host of supernatural beings far removed from his expectations, and comes to some significant realizations about the nature of good and evil. **#sciencefiction #fantasy #satire #christianity (approx. 140 pages)**

### ***Christy, Marshall***

In the year 1912, nineteen-year-old Christy Huddleston leaves home to teach school in the Smoky Mountains -- and comes to know and love the resilient people of the region, with their fierce pride, their dark superstitions, their terrible poverty, and their yearning for beauty and truth. But her faith will be severely challenged by trial and tragedy, by the needs and unique strengths of two remarkable young men, and by a heart torn between true love and unwavering devotion. **#christianromance #christianity (approx. 500 pages)**

### ***Gone With the Wind, Mitchell (counts as 2 books)***

Many novels have been written about the Civil War and its aftermath. None take us into the burning fields and cities of the American South as *Gone With the Wind* does, creating haunting scenes and thrilling portraits of characters so vivid that we remember their words and feel their fear and hunger for the rest of our lives. In the two main characters, independent, irresistible Scarlett and the flashy, contemptuous Rhett, Margaret Mitchell not only conveys a timeless story of survival under the harshest of circumstances, she

also creates two of the most famous lovers in the English-speaking world since *Romeo and Juliet*. #civilwar #southernepic #romance #classicamericanlit (approx. 1,000 pages)

***Metamorphoses, Ovid (must be in verse and full-length: counts as 2 books!!)***

This is a translation of the Latin narrative poem in fifteen books describing the history of the world from its creation to the deification of Julius Caesar. This cohesive collection of stories from Greek and Roman mythology recounts tales of recorded transformations. Comprised of over fifty stories, it chronicles the legends of King Midas, Daedalus, Icarus, Hercules, Cupid and Psyche, and the Trojan War. #classicalmythology #epic (approx. 700 pages)

***The Chosen, Chaim Potok***

In 1940s Brooklyn, New York, an accident throws Reuven Malter 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. #holocaust #judaism #comingofage #malefriendship #fathersonrelationships (approx. 300 pages)

***Tortured for His Faith, Popov***

This work is the true story of Haralan Popov, a successful minister in Bulgaria who was arrested and sentenced to fifteen years imprisonment as an American spy, at a widely publicized trial in Sofia. Enduring torture and brainwashing in communist prisons and labor camps, Haralan Popov remained faithful to God. After his release, Dr. Haralan Popov founded Door of Hope International in 1972. #biography #christianmartyr #christianity (approx. 150 pages)

***Ivanhoe, Scott***

Set at the time of the Norman Conquest, this novel discusses Ivanhoe's return from the Crusades to claim his inheritance and the love of Rowena and his involvement in the struggle between Richard Coeur de Lion and his Norman brother John. It is structured by a series of conflicts: Saxon versus Norman, Christian versus Jew, and men versus women. #romance #medievalEngland #war #romance #classiclit (approx. 550 pages)

***A Midsummer Night's Dream, Shakespeare***

This play portrays the events surrounding the marriage of the Theseus, Duke of Athens, and Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons. These include the adventures of four young Athenian lovers and a group of six amateur actors, who are controlled and manipulated by the fairies who inhabit the forest in which most of the play is set. The play is one of Shakespeare's most popular works for the stage and is widely performed across the world. \*Ms. White recommends the Folger edition!! #play #comedy #romance #classiclit (approx. 200 pages)

***Julius Caesar, Shakespeare***

Shakespeare's historical tragedy conveys the tale of Caesar's downfall at the hands of the Roman senate and even his own friends-- features Caesar's famous line, "Et tu, Brutus?" \*Ms. White recommends the Folger edition!! #play #tragedy #historicalfiction #classiclit (approx. 200 pages)

***Twelfth Night, Shakespeare***

In Shakespeare's romantic comedy of disguises and confusion, Viola disguises herself as a boy so she can safely get a job-- all is well until she falls in love with her master, the Duke Orsino, and he asks her to bring messages of love to *his* interest, the Lady Olivia. This play is full of hijinks and plot-twists characteristic of Shakespearean comedies. \*Ms. White recommends the Folger edition!! #play #comedy #romance #classiclit (approx. 200 pages)

***Henry V, Shakespeare***

"Once more unto the breach, dear friends!" Join the rallying battle cry of Henry the 5th, in this famous play about one of England's most famous medieval kings. \*Folger edition recommended #play #historicalfiction #action #classiclit (approx. 200 pages)

***Pygmalion, Shaw***

The original *My Fair Lady*!! Prof. Henry Higgins takes gutter-rat Eliza Doolittle under his wing, attempting to turn her into a well-bred English lady. #play #romanticcomedy #classiclitt (approx. 100 pages)

***Oedipus Rex, Sophocles***

Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex (Oedipus the King)* has never been surpassed for the raw and terrible power with which its hero struggles to answer the eternal question, "Who am I?" The play, a story of a king who acting entirely in ignorance kills his father and marries his mother, unfolds with shattering power; we are helplessly carried along with Oedipus towards the final, horrific truth. #play #classicaltragedy (approx. 100 pages)

***Antigone, Sophocles***

In this sequel to *Oedipus Rex*, the city of Thebes deals with the tragic aftermath left in the wake of Oedipus' actions. Antigone, his daughter, must face the life altering decision to follow her uncle's laws, or risk death in obeying the laws of the gods. #play #classicaltragedy (approx. 100 pages)

***The Lord of the Rings, Tolkien (choose any in the trilogy-- each counts as 1 book)***

The most widely read and influential fantasy epic of all time, it is also quite simply one of the most memorable and beloved tales ever told. Originally published in 1954, *The Lord of the Rings* set the framework upon which all epic/quest fantasy since has been built. Through the urgings of the enigmatic wizard Gandalf, young hobbit Frodo Baggins embarks on an urgent, incredibly treacherous journey to destroy the One Ring. This ring -- created and then lost by the Dark Lord, Sauron, centuries earlier -- is a weapon of evil, one that Sauron desperately wants returned to him. With the power of the ring once again his own, the Dark Lord will unleash his wrath upon all of Middle-earth. The only way to prevent this horrible fate from becoming reality is to return the Ring to Mordor, the only place it can be destroyed. Unfortunately for our heroes, Mordor is also Sauron's lair. *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy is essential reading not only for fans of fantasy but for lovers of classic literature as well. #fantasy #action #adventure #epic #christianallegory (approx. 450 pages each)

***Around the World in Eighty Days, Verne***

*Around the World in Eighty Days* (French: *Le tour du monde en quatre-vingts jours*) is a classic adventure novel by the French writer Jules Verne, published in 1873. In the story, Phileas Fogg of London and his newly employed French valet Passepartout attempt to circumnavigate the world in 80 days on a £20,000 wager (roughly £1.6 million today) set by his friends at the Reform Club. #adventure #exploration #classiclitt (approx. 130 pages)

***20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, Verne***

Professor Aronnax, his faithful servant, Conseil, and the Canadian harpooner, Ned Land, begin an extremely hazardous voyage to rid the seas of a little-known and terrifying sea monster. However, the "monster" turns out to be a giant submarine, commanded by the mysterious Captain Nemo, by whom they are soon held captive. So begins not only one of the great adventure classics by Jules Verne, the "Father of Science Fiction," but also a truly fantastic voyage from the lost city of Atlantis to the South Pole. #adventure #exploration #sciencefiction (approx. 250 pages)

***The Aeneid, Virgil (must be full-length and in verse)***

This poem is a later "sequel" to *The Iliad*, telling the legendary story of Aeneas' travels to Italy and his mythological founding of Rome. #classicalmythology #epic #hero (approx. 440 pages)

***El Dorado, von Orczy***

Rising-10th graders will love this sequel to *The Scarlet Pimpernel* which is required reading in the 9th grade English class. The elusive Pimpernel returns for another swashbuckling adventure in *El Dorado*. The still-raging French Revolution continues to claim lives, and the shadow of the guillotine draws ever nearer to the young Dauphin, son of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. No one dares to attempt to liberate the little prince — no one, that is, but the mysterious Sir Percy Blakeney, also known as the Scarlet Pimpernel.



Sir Percy takes on one of Robespierre's agents, the scheming Citizen Chauvelin, in a suspenseful blend of action and political intrigue, recounted with captivating period detail. **#Frenchrevolution #historicalfiction #action #adventure (approx. 350 pages)**

***The Picture of Dorian Gray, Wilde***

In this celebrated work, his only novel, Wilde forged a devastating portrait of the effects of evil and debauchery on a young man in late-19th-century England. Combining elements of the Gothic horror novel and decadent French fiction, the book centers on a striking premise: As Dorian Gray sinks into a life of crime and selfish pleasure, his body retains perfect youth and vigor while his recently painted portrait grows day by day into a hideous record of evil and decay, which he must keep hidden from the world. **#Victorian #goodvsevil #horror #satire (approx. 170 pages)**

***The Importance of Being Earnest, Wilde***

In Wilde's most famous play satirizing stuffy Victorian conventions, Jack and Algernon both pretend to be the fictional "Ernest" character in order to woo their love interests, Cecily and Gwendolyn, and live secret lives apart from their true identities. When both ladies think they are engaged to the same "Ernest," hilarious chaos ensues! **#play #comedy #satire #romance #VictorianEngland #classiclit (approx. 100 pages)**

## Social Studies-Science Reading List

### ***Darwin's Black Box, Behe***

Behe provides an outstanding apologetical tool for laypersons and professionals alike. His thesis-Darwinism has yet to show how evolution has worked to produce complex systems that biochemists observe in certain cells-is not only clearly presented in understandable language for non-scientists, but it is also replete with examples to thoroughly explain and illustrate the true "missing link." Behe separates the technical sections that might bog down non-scientists, making for a very engaging and readable text. The final chapter analyzes William Paley's argument from design, which is crucial to the defense of Christianity, and refutes recent attacks against it by atheists and agnostics. **(approx. 300 pages)**

### ***The Boys in the Boat: nine Americans and their epic quest for gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, Daniel James Brown***

How the working-class lads on the University of Washington's eight-oar crew beat out elite teams to win 1936 Olympic gold. **(approx. 402 pages)**

### ***Napoleon's Buttons: How 17 Molecules Changed History, Penny Le Couteur, Jay Burreson***

This fascinating book tells the stories of seventeen molecules that greatly influenced the course of history. These molecules provided the impetus for early exploration and made possible the ensuing voyages of discovery. They resulted in grand feats of engineering and spurred advances in medicine; lie behind changes in gender roles, in law, and in the environment; and have determined what we today eat, drink, and wear. **(approx. 375 pages)**

### ***By the Rivers of Water, Erskine Clark***

In early November 1834, an aristocratic young couple from Savannah and South Carolina sailed from New York and began a strange seventeen year odyssey in West Africa. Leighton and Jane Wilson had freed their inherited slaves, and were to become the most influential American missionaries in West Africa during the first half of the nineteenth century. However, upon returning to the United States, in spite of their years of fighting slavery, they succumbed to pressures from the South during the Civil War and gave themselves to a history and a people committed to maintaining slavery and its deep oppression—both an act of deep love for a place and people, and the desertion of a moral vision. **(approx. 450 pages)**

### ***Setting the World Ablaze: Washington, Adams, Jefferson and the American Revolution, John Ferling***

"Setting the World Ablaze is the story of the three men who, perhaps more than any others, helped bring the United States into being: George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson. Braiding three strands into one narrative, John Ferling brings these American icons down from their pedestals to show them as men of flesh and blood, and gives us a new understanding of the passion and uncertainty of the struggle to form a new nation." "Setting the World Ablaze shows in detail how these conservative men - successful members of the colonial elite - were transformed into radical revolutionaries, and in doing so, it illuminates not just the special genius of these three leaders, but the transformation of His Majesty's colonies into the United States."--BOOK JACKET.Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved **(approx. 392 pages)**

### ***The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin, Franklin***

Few men could compare to Benjamin Franklin. Virtually self-taught, he excelled as an athlete, a man of letters, a printer, a scientist, a wit, an inventor, an editor, and a writer, and he was probably the most successful diplomat in American history. David Hume hailed him as the first great philosopher and great man of letters in the New World. Written initially to guide his son, Franklin's autobiography is a lively, spellbinding account of his unique and eventful life. Stylistically his best work, it has become a classic in world literature, one to inspire and delight readers everywhere. **(approx. 350 pages)**

### ***The Demon Under the Microscope: From Battlefield Hospitals to Nazi Labs, One Doctor's Heroic Search for the World's First Miracle Drug, Thomas Hager***

The Nazis discovered it. The Allies won the war with it. It conquered diseases, changed laws, and single-handedly launched the era of antibiotics. This incredible discovery was sulfa, the first antibiotic. In *The Demon Under the Microscope*, Thomas Hager chronicles the dramatic history of the drug that shaped modern medicine. **(approx. 340 pages)**

### ***Hiroshima, John Hersey***

On August 6, 1945, Hiroshima was destroyed by the first atom bomb ever dropped on a city. This book, John Hersey's journalistic masterpiece, tells what happened on that day. Told through the memories of survivors, this timeless, powerful and compassionate document has become a classic -that stirs the conscience of humanity- (The New York Times).

Almost four decades after the original publication of this celebrated book, John Hersey went back to Hiroshima in search of the people whose stories he had told. His account of what he discovered about them is now the eloquent and moving final chapter of **Hiroshima**. (approx. 152 pages)

***Unbroken: a World War II story of survival, resilience, and redemption, Laura Hillenbrand***

In boyhood, Louis Zamperini was an incorrigible delinquent. As a teenager, he channeled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics. But when World War II began, the athlete became an airman, embarking on a journey that led to a doomed flight on a May afternoon in 1943. When his Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean, against all odds, Zamperini survived, adrift on a foundering life raft. Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be suspended on the fraying wire of his will. (approx. 473 pages)

***The Disappearing Spoon: And Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the History of the World from the Periodic Table of the Elements, Sam Kean***

Why did Gandhi hate iodine (I, 53)? How did radium (Ra, 88) nearly ruin Marie Curie's reputation? And why is gallium (Ga, 31) the go-to element for laboratory pranksters? The Periodic Table is a crowning scientific achievement, but it's also a treasure trove of adventure, betrayal, and obsession. These fascinating tales follow every element on the table as they play out their parts in human history, and in the lives of the (frequently) mad scientists who discovered them. THE DISAPPEARING SPOON masterfully fuses science with the classic lore of invention, investigation, and discovery--from the Big Bang through the end of time. (approx. 391 pages)

***A Hobbit, A Wardrobe, and a Great War, Joseph Laconte***

World War I was supposed to be the war to end all wars; a war to cleanse humanity. Instead, it became the most deadly conflict the world had ever seen. The lives of two of the 20th century's greatest authors, C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien were deeply affected by their experiences as soldiers in the war. Despite the hardships they faced, their views on good, evil, humanity, and God following the war diverged from most of western society, which emerged from the war disillusioned. These two men, through faith and friendship, refused to believe the lies of a society that turned away from Christ and put its trust in man. (approx 196 pages)

***The Journey of Crazy Horse: A Lakota History, Joseph M. Marshall***

As a brilliant leader of a desperate cause and one of the most perennially fascinating figures of the American West, Crazy Horse crushed Custer's 7th Cavalry and brought the United States Army to its knees. Now, with the help of celebrated historian Joseph Marshall, we finally have the opportunity to know Crazy Horse as his fellow Lakota Indians knew him. (approx. 310 pages)

***The Prince, Machiavelli (to be read in conjunction with The Communist Manifesto, Marx and Engels)***

Machiavelli's treatise on statecraft, first published in 1517. Using as his model Cesare Borgia, a Florentine prince who stopped at nothing to achieve political position, Machiavelli describes, even recommends, ruthless despotism, cunning magnanimity and cruelty for successful government. (approx.71 pages) Note: Each book requires a separate non-fiction report.

***The Communist Manifesto, Marx and Engels (to be read in conjunction with The Prince by Machiavelli)***

Originally published on the eve of the 1848 European revolutions, *The Communist Manifesto* is a condensed and incisive account of the worldview Marx and Engels developed during their hectic intellectual and political collaboration. Formulating the principles of dialectical materialism, they believed that labor creates wealth, hence capitalism is exploitative and antithetical to freedom. (approx. 65 pages) Note: Each book requires a separate non-fiction report.

***Resolute: The Epic Search for the Northwest Passage and John Franklin, and the Discovery of the Queen's Ghost Ship*, Martin W. Sandler**

Talks about an amazing high-seas adventure, which encompasses the search for the Northwest Passage in the early 1800s. Covering 39 heroic rescue missions, this book features photographs, paintings, engravings and maps. **(approx. 299 pages)**

***Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time*, Dava Sobel**

Longitude is the dramatic human story of an epic scientific quest, and of John Harrison's forty-year obsession with building his perfect timekeeper, known today as the chronometer. Full of heroism and chicanery, it is also a fascinating brief history of astronomy, navigation, and clockmaking, and opens a new window on our world. **(approx. 184 pages)**

**9th/10th - Fiction Report**

**On a separate sheet of paper,**

- a) provide title and author of book, and**
- b) hand-write each question below in complete sentences.**

1. Follow the span of this story by briefly describing its setting, main characters, rising action, turning point(s), and resolution. You may choose to complete the attached plot diagram.
2. Who is the/one of the protagonist(s) in this story? Describe the character's personality. What are their strengths and weaknesses? What changes do they undergo or experience? What do they believe?
3. Whom do you consider the antagonist/s in the story and why? Describe them and their role in the story.
4. From what point of view is the book written? What effect does this have on the story?
5. Identify three conflicts in the work. Briefly describe one of the conflicts.
6. Did you enjoy the book overall? If so, why? If not, why not?

## 9th/10th Nonfiction Report

On a separate sheet of paper,

- a) provide title and author of book, and
- b) hand-write each question below in complete sentences.

1. State the author's thesis.
2. Explain three or four of the most important ideas that support the author's thesis.
3. What did you want to find out when you chose this book? Did you find out what you wanted ? Why or why not?
4. What is the author's background? Is the author qualified to write on this topic? Why or why not?
5. Does he/she write with any bias? Explain.
6. Did this book change how you thought about the subject? If so, how? How can you use the information from this book in your life?