

2026-27 GCS Summer English Assignment - Grades 11 & 12

Student Name:

May 2026

METHODOLOGY AND PURPOSE

Because Grace Christian School is committed to providing students a strong literary education, multiple works of literary merit are read and analyzed throughout the school year in high school English. In addition, students are given a summer literature assignment in order to...

- *foster a lifelong love of reading.*
- *provide the opportunity to keep sharpening literacy skills.*
- *motivate them to read for pleasure while guiding them to make sound choices.*
- *foster the correlation between reading and writing skills.*
- *encourage them to discover and develop a sense of ownership in their reading lives.*
- *prepare them for success in high school, pre-college testing, and college itself, as supported by studies that reveal that the number of books read in summer is consistently related to academic gains, significant vocabulary gains take place when students read in the summer, and significant fluency gains take place through summer reading programs.*

ASSIGNMENT SPECIFICS

- **No book substitutions, even upon request. No abridged versions. No audiobooks.**
- **This is a required assignment with two optional components, each with corresponding grade percentages.**
- **The assignment grade is a Quarter 1 major English grade.**
- **The assignment is due at the beginning of English class on Monday, August 24, 2026.**
- **Grade deductions will be applied for late submission, per the Family Handbook.**
- **The assignment is considered complete when both the reading completion form and all nine literature responses are submitted and all assignment guidelines and instructions have been followed.**
- **REQUIRED–READING AND WRITING (for a 79% grade):** Select a book from the provided **FICTION** list that you have not previously read. Read the entirety of the book and hand-write the nine responses about the book on the provided pages. If the book counts as two, the grade earned is 89%. **TAKE THE FOLLOWING INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN MAKING THIS SELECTION:**
 - Do not select a book marked as <<*Not an option for required reading.*>>.
 - Acquire a physical copy of the book, whether new or used; purchased or borrowed.
 - If you will be borrowing the book, and it will not be available to you throughout Quarter 1 of the school year, you must select a book that is not marked with an asterisk so that you can access it on gutenberg.org, a collection of e-books in the public domain, during Quarter 1.
 - **MAJOR PAPER:** You will need access to the book because the first major paper of the school year is an analysis of the character arc of this book's protagonist, as revealed by the character's words, thoughts, actions, and/or reactions throughout the story.
- **OPTIONAL–READING ONLY (for an 89% grade):** In addition to the required reading and writing, read the entirety of another book on the provided fiction or nonfiction lists that you have not previously read. If the book counts as two, the grade earned is 100%.
- **OPTIONAL–READING ONLY (for a 100% grade):** In addition to all of the above, select and read the entirety of another additional book from the provided fiction or nonfiction lists that you have not previously read.

Questions about this assignment should be emailed to Kathy Kilmer, HS Language Arts Chair, kkilmer@gcswarriors.org.

This assignment can also be located on the GCS website under Resources: <https://www.gcswarriors.org/resources/>.

Assignment specifics are adjusted for students new to GCS who are enrolled after July 31.

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READING COMPLETION FORM

I, _____, read, in full, the following book(s) from this list this summer:

Required (fiction) book title, author, total number of pages, and ISBN: _____

Optional (fiction or nonfiction) book title, author, total number of pages, and ISBN: _____

Optional (fiction or nonfiction) book title, author, total number of pages, and ISBN: _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

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11 & 12 READING OPTIONS: FICTION

<i>The Divine Comedy</i> [2]	Alighieri, Dante
<i>Mansfield Park</i>	Austen, Jane
<i>The Tenant of Wildfell Hall</i>	Brontë, Anne
<i>Shirley</i>	Brontë, Charlotte
<i>Villette</i>	Brontë, Charlotte
<i>Wuthering Heights</i>	Brontë, Emily
<i>Aurora Leigh</i>	Browning, Elizabeth Barrett
<i>The Good Earth</i> *	Buck, Pearl S.
<i>My Antonia</i>	Cather, Willa
Any of the following: <i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> ; <i>Bleak House</i> [2] <i>Little Dorrit</i> [2] <i>Our Mutual Friend</i> [2]	Dickens, Charles
<i>Crime and Punishment</i> [2]	Dostoevsky, Fyodor
<i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> [2]	Dostoevsky, Fyodor
Any of the following: <i>The Count of Monte Cristo</i> [2] <i>The Three Musketeers</i> [2] <i>The Man in the Iron Mask</i> [2]	Dumas, Alexandre
<i>Adam Bede</i> [2]	Eliot, George
<i>Middlemarch</i> [2]	Eliot, George
<i>The Return of the Native</i>	Hardy, Thomas
<i>The Blithedale Romance</i>	Hawthorne, Nathaniel
<i>The House of Seven Gables</i>	Hawthorne, Nathaniel
<i>Dune</i> *	Herbert, Frank
<i>Les Misérables</i> [2]	Hugo, Victor
<i>Daisy Miller</i>	James, Henry
<i>Dubliners</i> <<Not an option for required reading.>>	Joyce, James
Any in the space trilogy: <i>Out of the Silent Planet</i> * <i>Perelandra</i> * <i>That Hideous Strength</i> *	Lewis, C.S.
<i>Billy Budd, Sailor</i>	Melville, Herman
<i>Moby Dick</i> [2]	Melville, Herman
<i>Paradise Lost</i> <<Not an option for required reading.>>	Milton, John
<i>Don Quixote</i> [2]	Saavedra, Miguel de Cervantes
Any book in the <i>Lord Peter Wimsey</i> series	Sayers, Dorothy
Any of the following: <i>As You Like It</i> <i>King Lear</i> <i>Othello</i> <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> <i>The Tempest</i>	Shakespeare, William
<i>Saint Joan</i> *	Shaw, George Bernard
<i>The Faerie Queene</i> <<Not an option for required reading.>>	Spencer, Edmund
<i>War and Peace</i> [2]	Tolstoy, Leo

[2] = Counts as two books.

* = Not available as a public domain e-book on gutenberg.org. See pg. 1.

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9-12 READING OPTIONS: NONFICTION

<i>The Confessions of Saint Augustine</i>	Augustine, St., Bishop of Hippo
<i>Darwin's Black Box (2nd ed.)</i>	Behe, Michael
<i>The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics</i>	Brown, Daniel James
<i>By the Rivers of Water</i>	Clark, Erskine
<i>Pilgrim at Tinker Creek</i>	Dillard, Annie
<i>Through Many Dangers: The Story of John Newton</i>	Edwards, Brian H.
<i>A Chance to Die</i>	Elliot, Elisabeth
<i>Setting the World Ablaze: Washington, Adams, Jefferson and the American Revolution</i>	Ferling, John
<i>Foxe's Book of Martyrs</i>	Foxe, John
<i>The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin</i>	Franklin, Benjamin
<i>The Call</i>	Guinness, Os
<i>The Demon Under the Microscope: From Battlefield Hospitals to Nazi Labs, One Doctor's Heroic Search for the World's First Miracle Drug</i>	Hager, Thomas
<i>Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption</i>	Hillenbrand, Laura
<i>The Disappearing Spoon: And Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the History of the World from the Periodic Table of the Elements</i>	Kean, Sam
<i>The Reason for God</i>	Keller, Tim
<i>Into Thin Air</i>	Krakauer, Jon
<i>Walking on Water</i>	L'Engle, Madeleine
<i>A Hobbit, A Wardrobe, and a Great War</i>	Laconte, Joseph
<i>Napoleon's Buttons: How 17 Molecules Changed History</i>	Le Couteur, Penny and Jay Burreson
<i>Any of the following: God in the Dock: Essays on Theology and Ethics; Mere Christianity; The Abolition of Man</i>	Lewis, C.S.
<i>The Journey of Crazy Horse: A Lakota History</i>	Marshall, Joseph M.
<i>Eric Liddell: Pure Gold</i>	McCasland, David
<i>How to Think Like Shakespeare: Lessons from a Renaissance Education</i>	Newstok, Scott
<i>Knowing God</i>	Packer, J.I.
<i>Total Truth [2]</i>	Pearcey, Nancy
<i>Finding Truth</i>	Pearcey, Nancy
<i>Desiring God</i>	Piper, John
<i>Tortured for His Faith</i>	Popov, Haralan
<i>Recovering the Lost Art of Reading: A Quest for the True, the Good, and the Beautiful</i>	Ryken, Leland and G. F. Mathes
<i>Resolute: The Epic Search for the Northwest Passage and John Franklin, and the Discovery of the Queen's Ghost Ship</i>	Sandler, Martin W.
<i>Letters to a Diminished Church</i>	Sayers, Dorothy
<i>He Is There and He Is Not Silent</i>	Schaeffer, Francis
<i>Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time</i>	Sobel, Dava
<i>50 People Every Christian Should Know</i>	Wiersbe, Warren W.

[2] = Counts as two books.

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LITERATURE RESPONSE #6

Student Name: _____

Book Title _____ Chapter(s) _____ or Page Range: ____ - ____

Must be hand-written neatly in black or dark blue ink. If it is not entirely legible, you will be asked to rewrite and resubmit it. The response in each of the three subdivisions (notice, wonder, and think) should be a minimum of four sentences for a total of at least twelve. Overall, the nine responses should relate to the work from beginning to end. The first three should relate to the earliest chapters; the next three to the middle chapters; and the last three to the closing chapters. **This is not to be a re-telling/summary of what happens or what is said in the story. It is to be a statement of your own thoughts about what you notice, wonder, and think about what the main character/protagonist says and/or thinks and/or his or her actions and/or reactions.** Personal pronouns are allowed. Be specific in your observations. If more writing space is needed, write on the back of this page.

Notice: _____

Handwritten response area for the 'Notice' section, consisting of 12 horizontal lines.

Wonder: _____

Handwritten response area for the 'Wonder' section, consisting of 12 horizontal lines.

Think: _____

Handwritten response area for the 'Think' section, consisting of 12 horizontal lines.

