

Information for Parents and Students: GCS High School 2020 Summer Reading

Required Summer Reading at GCS: Methodology and Purpose

Because Grace Christian School is committed to a strong reading program for its students, classic literature is assigned throughout the year that is specifically selected to coincide with other disciplines. 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.

The Grace Christian School summer reading program is an important aspect of the 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 summer reading, GCS faculty and staff make choices based on historical and subject significance, literary merit, and the goal of fostering a lifelong love of 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.
 - To foster the correlation between reading and writing skills.
- To encourage students to discover and develop a sense of ownership in their reading lives.

2020 Summer Reading Assignments

This summer's reading assignments have been modified due to current COVID-19 circumstances which have led to library closings. In light of this, **all students are to read a particular literary work that is part of their grade level's 2020-21 English class curriculum, as well as complete an assignment related to the book.** The school has ordered the books, and they may be picked up at the front desk during high school office hours (Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM). [See the table below for more information and links to assignment details.](#)

Hopefully this reduction of required summer reading will offer students opportunities to read even more works of choice from their own home libraries and/or those of others over these summer months.

Note: Rising juniors and seniors should wait until their 2020-21 English class placement has been finalized with the guidance counselor before beginning the summer reading assignment, as the assignment for each level is different.

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Rising Grade for 2020-21	Reading Assignments (Please read the school-provided copy.)	Corresponding Assignments (Click to open level-specific assignment.)
9	<i>The Scarlet Pimpernel</i>	English 9
10	<i>The Odyssey</i> , Fitzgerald Translation*	Regular and Honors English 10
11 & 12	<i>Beowulf: A New Verse Translation</i> by Seamus Heaney	Regular English 11/12 Honors English 11/12 AP English 11/12

*This book was made available to rising sophomores during book drop-off in May. Contact the school if it was not acquired at that time.

Updated 6/10/20