

Heritage Hall Christian School
Required Reading & Literature Policy

REQUIRED SUMMER READING: Reading challenging books should be an established discipline by the high school years if a student is to be adequately prepared for college. Reading a book, however, without thinking about it and trying to understand it is useless. Therefore, note-taking *while* reading is a very helpful investment toward the thorough understanding of the novel, since it demands close attention and concentration. Summer reading will help to enforce the acquiring of a most beneficial tool for life. The summer novels are listed below.

Books may be purchased at any bookstore and should not be hard to find. You may check the book out of the public library, but you will not be able to make notes in the book or refer back to it. If you borrow a book from another student, be sure to rely on your own reading and notes rather than any they may have written in the margin. Get your books early and read on a daily basis. Procrastination during the summer months is easy, but it reaps a reward of frustration. Read with understanding. Take notes! Read with a good attitude and it will be enjoyable.

HEADMASTER'S NOTE: All students are required to take Academic English unless prior permission is obtained from the Headmaster, or General English was taken last year. Failure to do the required reading is NOT an excuse for transferring to General English. Academic English is required to complete the College Prep course of study.

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
<i>Johnny Tremain (sum)</i>	<i>Uncle Tom's Cabin (sum)</i>	<i>Jane Eyre (sum)</i>	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird (sum)</i>
<i>The Old Man & the Sea</i>	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>	<i>Ivanhoe</i>	<i>Lord of the Flies</i>
<i>The Hiding Place</i>	<i>Huckleberry Finn</i>	<i>A Tale of Two Cities</i>	<i>A Man for All Seasons</i>
<i>The Count of Monte Cristo</i>	<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i>	<i>Silas Marner</i>	<i>Animal Farm</i>
<i>Frankenstein</i>	<i>Ethan Frome</i>	<i>The Return of the Native</i>	<i>The Great Gatsby</i>
		<i>Sir Gawain & the Green Knight</i>	

HIGH SCHOOL LITERATURE POLICY

The purpose of our English department is to prepare our students to read and write well so that they can become good communicators. Part of this process is an extensive reading program which includes summer reading and at least one novel per grading period in class. All books have been chosen for overall value of material to introduce subjects, situations, characters, and authors, and especially to prepare our students for college.

Despite the fact that 95% of the books we teach are considered classics, some of the books may contain material that parents may object to because of situations, violence, or language. For example, Shakespeare's tragedies have violence, language problems, even witchcraft; but the overall value of a working knowledge of Shakespeare is considered necessary for an educated person. The Scarlet Letter is about the results of sin, specifically adultery, but it is dealt with from a Biblical context, and the lessons learned about sin, whether hidden or not, are excellent. In some books, the Lord's name is used in vain, as in The Red Badge of Courage, when the lieutenant loses his hand in battle, or in To Kill a Mockingbird, when the ten-year-old narrator goes through a "cussing" phase. We are not condoning these sins, but we do feel part of the educational process in high school is discussing these things in an atmosphere in which Biblical truth can be applied.

Our purpose at Heritage Hall is to prepare our students academically, physically, socially, and spiritually for service to God and country. Part of this preparation sometimes includes literature with objectionable material. However, we acknowledge the right of every parent not to have his child read a book the parent feels would harm the student's spiritual growth. Therefore, if a parent objects to a book on the reading list because of objectionable material, an alternate book may be chosen from a list provided by HHCS. The required books are listed above so every parent will know what their student is reading in English class.