

Summer Reading List – Grades 7-12

One of the blessings of summer break is the opportunity for students to pursue personal passions and interests at a time when the demands of the school year are minimal. Students basically find themselves with 8 hours of time that they didn't have at their discretion during the school year. With that said, we do think it is important that students grow in their intellectual and academic pursuits throughout life, including summer. One of the ways we as learners grow is through reading good, thought-provoking, and challenging books. So, each returning PCS student in grades 7-12 are required to read at least one book from the list below (some of you, if you are taking a certain honors or AP course may have additional required readings as well). In addition, you are required to complete the required assignment and bring with you on the first day of school (August 16). You will turn this into your English teacher and need to be prepared to discuss the book that first week of school. Also, if you have read one of the books on the list, we encourage you to read one of the other books for your grade level. If you have already read both of the books on your grade level, choose one to do the assignment on, and enjoy reading something of your own choosing. Happy reading!

P.S. The English department discussed and picked these books because of their highly engaging nature, redemptive theme, or value as a work of literature. We hope you find these books as enjoyable and meaningful as we have.

Grade 7 – Pick one

The Witch at Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

TASK: Pick one character for your book and keep a journal/diary from this character's perspective. You can follow the events of the story throughout the journal entries. Make at least 10 entries in the journal and try to reference something from the story in each entry. Really try to get inside the character's mind –what are you thinking and feeling? Try to capture the character's voice as you write.

Grade 8 – Pick one

The Children's Blizzard by David Laskin

The Last Sin Eater by Francine Rivers

TASK: Write a 1-2 page essay on how this book has relevance to you. How did it impact you? What effect did the plot and characters have on who you are and who you want to be? Please reference specific parts of the book as you write and possibly even specific quotes. Don't just write, "I liked so and so". Why did someone or some action impact you? For example, "I could really relate to Auggie Pullman because I remember starting a new school and was really worried whether I'd make friends."

Grade 9 – Pick one

Bruchko by Bruce Olsen (We have copies at the PCS library)

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys

TASK: Each of these books is filled with action. Even *Bruchko*, which is non-fiction, has several intense and gripping accounts of hardships he faced. Pick one scene from your book that you found the most compelling and interesting. Retell this scene as if you were describing it to someone who never read the book. Use sensory details, descriptive plot summary, and description of the characters involved. You are to retell the scene in your own words; don't "borrow" language from the text, but you are allowed to use quotes from the book as part of your retelling. If you do use a quote, make sure to use quotation marks and put the page number in parenthesis at the end of the sentence. {i.e. "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." (p.1)} Your scene recreation should be 1-2 pages in length.

Grade 10 – Pick one

Regular English

For the Glory by Duncan Hamilton OR *Through Gates of Splendor* by Elizabeth Elliot

TASK: Be prepared to sign that you have read the book in its entirety and to discuss these the first week of class. You may use the the template given for the honors class (attached to the original email) to write a book review for extra credit.

Honors English

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho OR *Night* by Elie Wiesel

TASK: Be prepared to sign that you have read the book in its entirety and to discuss these the first week of class. Write a book review following the given template (attached to the original email).

Grade 11 - Pick one

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan

Hannah Coulter by Wendell Berry

TASK: Each of these books portray female characters that display courage and resolve. Pick one of these characters and tell their story. Write a 2-3 page essay that tells about your character. What happens to her? What hardships does she face? What losses does she experience? What character traits and qualities does she have that are admirable? Your job is to summarize this character by telling their story and the strength of character they possess.

AP U.S. History

The American Miracle: Divine Providence in the Rise of the Republic by Michael Medved

Instant American History: Through the Civil War and Reconstruction by Irwin Unger

TASK: Be prepared to sign that you have read the book in its entirety and to discuss them the first week of class.

Grade 12

All Seniors

Radical by David Platt OR *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis.

TASK: AP English students need only to be prepared to sign that you have read the book in its entirety. Other students should be prepared to sign that you have read the book in its entirety and write a 1-page essay, in which you summarize the author's thesis and explain how he develops his arguments.

AP English Students

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

TASK: Complete the assigned essay (see the "AP English Essay" link under the High School page)

Honors Worldview

Amusing Ourselves to Death by Neil Postman

TASK: Answer the assigned questions in complete sentences. (We have copies of the book at school. Call the high school office to set up a time to come pick up a copy of the book. Questions can be found on the High School page titled, "Amusing Ourselves to Death Questions".)