

British Literature

Summer Assignment 2020



Welcome to British Literature!

The FCS British Literature class examines texts from a variety of time periods within the British Literature Canon in an effort to expand students' critical reading and writing skills.

The offered Summer Reading assignment has been selected with the British Literature course objectives in mind and will be assessed in a variety of ways within the first two weeks of the school year. There are two steps to the Summer Reading Assignment that should be completed before the start of school. Please read each step carefully.

The first part of the Summer Reading Assignment involves choosing a summer reading text. Reading complex literature is a skill developed over time. To read the novels and plays assigned at the 12th grade British Literature level, students need to be comfortable committing chunks of time to sustained focus in reading.

The goal of the summer reading assignment is to allow students to develop a higher level of interest in the skill of reading. Therefore, choice and variety is at the heart of this assignment.

Step 1:

Choose one book of 12th grade reading merit. The book you choose can either be fiction or nonfiction. It can be a work of classic literature or a modern publication. If you are unsure about finding a book, click any of the links below to find lists of books to get your search started. You do NOT have to choose from any of these lists, but they do provide suitable options. Use them as reference points when making your selection. Another option when making your selection is to google “goodreads books similar to _____” and add in the title of a book you have read in the past and enjoyed. Keep in mind that this should be limited to books read in the past three years.

There is a high level of freedom in the selection process, however the following should answer any questions or concerns:

- Do NOT choose a picture book.
 - Do NOT choose a book read in elementary or middle school.
 - Do NOT choose a book of poetry or essays.
 - Do NOT choose a textbook for another class.
-
- DO choose a book you think looks interesting.
 - DO choose a book you haven't read before.
 - DO choose a book that is appropriate to share in front of your classmates.

Be prepared during the first week of school to complete a series of writing tasks based on what you read AND be prepared to give a book talk (see step 2). How can you prepare for this? Read a book.

Due date for completed reading of choice book: Tuesday, August 11th. Bring a physical copy of the book to class.

Various Lists for Reference: **These book lists are ONLY references. You do NOT have to even look at these lists and NOT all titles within them are recommended for all students. Please use personal discretion when selecting your book.

[Good Reads 12th Grade Reading List](#)

[Books Similar to *Shoe Dog: A Memoir by the Creator of Nike*](#)

[Books Similar to *Bob Goff's Love Does*](#)

[My Favorite Books of 2019 by Trevin Wax](#)

[Paste Magazine 30 Best YA Novels of the last decade](#)

Step 2:

Prepare a **two to three minute** Book Talk to be given during the first week of school. The order of the Book Talks will be randomly compiled; therefore, students should have their talks prepared on the first day of school.

Please do not confuse a Book Talk with a book summary or a book report. Book Talks are brief “teasers” given enthusiastically as a way to entice others to read a particular book. Consider this talk more of a persuasive speech than a report. **Choose a book you can enthusiastically recommend!**

Therefore, your talk should include the title and author of the book, a brief summary of various elements, why you liked it, and why other students might be interested in it. You may also read a short excerpt from the book (maximum two paragraphs). Use note cards to cue yourself during the talk. NO DIGITAL DEVICES allowed up front with you.

DUE DATE: August 11th.

TIPS:

| | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Start off with an interesting quotation from the book to capture your audience’s attention.2. Be sure to clearly state the title of the book and the author’s name at the beginning of your Book Talk.3. Spend the majority of your time discussing the characters and conflict, but include setting, major plot points, and a theme. Do NOT give away the ending! | <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Do not just list characters – remember this Book Talk is essentially a persuasive speech and it is not helpful to just read a list of names. What are the characters like?5. Have the book with you to use as a visual!6. Work on appropriate presentation skills: make eye contact, do not simply read your speech, use body language to communicate your message, speak loudly and clearly, etc. |
|---|--|