

Summer Reading 2025-2026

English 4204/4206

Our summer reading program encourages students to read throughout the summer and is meant to reinforce the literature program during the school year. We strongly recommend that you become an active reader while reading these summer selections—take notes and highlight key passages as you read the assigned stories. This behavior will help you become a more capable reader and your notations will serve as a valuable tool when studying for tests.

Before next fall, each student is responsible for having read the book or books assigned to his class. Honors has an additional web search. Testing and writing about these books will be done during the first week of school and will not be prefaced by a review. The examinations over the text(s) or web searches will test the students' comprehension of the main ideas relating to each assignment. It is important that each student complete the reading of the book(s) over the summer, as the test for a MAJOR GRADE will be administered on the second or third day of school. Moreover, throughout the year, the summer readings will be used as discussion pieces as they relate to various assignments and contexts of the class.

English 4204

***The Little Liar* by Mitch Albom**

English 4206

1) *The Little Liar* by Mitch Albom

2) *Murder in the Cathedral*. T.S Eliot

(978-0156632775)

3) Research Paper Book of Choice: In

addition to the above selections, Honors students will read a book for their major research paper which will be written during the 1st Quarter. The book must come from the provided list and be approved by Mrs. Terry, Mrs. Demmons, or Mr. Nabors. *Students must have a bound copy of this book.*

WEB SEARCH – 4206 ONLY!!!!

Answers MUST BE HANDWRITTEN!!

Theoretical Approaches to Literature

Students should search the web (remember to find valid sources and do not use Wikipedia) and understand the general concepts of the following theoretical approaches. **You will turn in your definitions and notes—which must be handwritten—for a grade.** As assessment, students will be asked to write a summary of each approach. The summary should include a brief definition (at least, three sentences) and the names of some key theorists (one or two). (At the bottom of this page is a list of websites where the student can get started).

Post-Colonial Theory

Structuralism

Reader Response Criticism

Post-Structuralism/Deconstruction

New Criticism

Students should also be familiar with the list of terms below. **Along with submitting a handwritten list of definitions,** students will be tested over these terms in a multiple-choice/matching format.

Alterity / The “OTHER”

Diaspora

Eurocentrism

Hybridity

Imperialism

Binary Opposition

Sign vs. Symbol

Aporia

Différance

Logocentrism

Discourse

Horizons of expectations

Interpretive communities

Transactional analysis

Ethos/Pathos/Logos

Helpful Link:

<http://www.kristisiegel.com/theory.htm>



BRIARCREST
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

For Honors Students

It is the student's responsibility to read the material about literary theory and the theorists *in preparation for this course*. **A simple, last minute perusal of a wiki-type website will not suffice as a substitute for careful and close reading of the theoretical information.** Moreover, the sites provided on the previous page are intended to be explored and notes are to be taken (in addition to the actual "for a grade" assignment). Simply copying the first definition the student finds is insufficient effort for this course.

It is most important that students practice their note-taking skills as they read and research the summer material.

At later dates the class will frequently need to recall material read in the summer; no one can remember important details several months later. Only coherent notes will protect the student from displaying lack of knowledge.

YOU are expected to perform on an honors level suitable for seniors at a college preparatory institution. As the terms and techniques associated with literary theory will be used throughout the year, it is important that you take the summer assignment seriously.

AN IMPORTANT WARNING

CONCERNING YOUR RESEARCH PAPER READING

It is impossible to remember even significant details of works which were studied (however thoroughly) even only a few weeks before a writing assignment or test. College-bound students **MUST** learn to take notes and to depend on their notes, not their memories. Honors English 12 students **MUST** take notes on Summer Reading, Independent Reading, and homework assignments; without this type of "reference material," college-bound students will not find academic success.



BRIARCREST
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

**Summer Reading Book of
Choice for
Major Research Paper --
English 4206**

This summer you will read a book of choice, selected from the provided list, and be prepared, upon entering school in August, to begin researching and composing a major paper dealing with the selected text. Detailed information pertaining to the research process and paper will be provided in the fall.

Once your choice is confirmed, your assignment is to read your book of choice over the summer in addition to the other summer reading assignments for English.

Your first step in this process, however, begins now. You will select a book from the list provided and submit your choice(s) to your English teacher. Once your English teacher approves your selection, she/he will confirm your choice (new students or students enrolling in Briarcrest during the summer will need to contact Mr. Nabors--
mcnabors@briarcrest.com --to get approval for their book of choice).



BRIARCREST
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

4206

2025-2026

BRIARCREST CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

SUGGESTED READING FOR RESEARCH

Austen Jane	<i>Persuasion</i>	Marlowe, Christopher	<i>Doctor Faustus</i>
Austen, Jane	<i>Sense and Sensibility</i>	Milton, John	<i>Paradise Lost</i>
Austen, Jane	<i>Emma</i>	Scott, Sir Walter	<i>Ivanhoe</i>
Bacon, Sir Francis	<i>Essays</i>	Shakespeare, William	<i>The Sonnets</i>
Browning, Elizabeth Barrett	<i>Aurora Leigh</i> , or other works	Shakespeare, William	<i>The Tempest</i>
Browning, Robert	Poetry	Shakespeare, William	<i>Hamlet</i>
Burns, Robert	<i>Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect</i>	Shakespeare, William	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>
Carroll, Lewis	<i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i>	Shakespeare, Williams	<i>Antony and Cleopatra</i>
Cervantes, Miguel de	<i>Don Quixote</i> (Burton Raffell Translation only)	Shakespeare, William	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>
Chaucer, Geoffrey	<i>Canterbury Tales</i> (those not read in class)	Shakespeare, William	<i>King Lear</i>
Conrad, Joseph	<i>Heart of Darkness</i>	Shaw, George Bernard	<i>King Richard</i>
Conrad, Joseph	<i>Lord Jim</i>	Shelley, Percy B.	<i>Pygmalion</i>
Conrad, Joseph	"The Secret Sharer"	Stevenson, Robert Louis	<i>Poems</i>
Defoe, Daniel	<i>Moll Flanders</i>	Stoker, Bram	<i>Treasure Island</i>
Dickens, Charles	<i>Hard Times</i>	Thomas, Dylan	<i>Dracula</i>
Dickens, Charles	<i>David Copperfield</i>	Tolkien, J.R.R.	Poetry
Dickens, Charles	<i>Oliver Twist</i>	Unknown	One book from
Dickens, Charles	<i>A Tale of Two Cities</i>	Wilde, Oscar	<i>The Lord of the Rings</i> trilogy
Donne, John	One of the following categories: meditations, sonnets, or lyric poems	Wordsworth, William	<i>The Book of Job or Esther</i>
Dumas, Alexander (French)	<i>The Three Musketeers</i> (Hochman Translation)	Yeats, William Butler	<i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i>
Eliot, George	<i>Middlemarch</i>		<i>Lyrical Ballads</i>
Eliot, T.S.	Poetry		Poetry
Golding, William	<i>Rites of Passage</i>		
Gordon, George (Byron)	Poetry		
Hardy, Thomas	<i>Tess of the D'Urbervilles</i>		
Hardy, Thomas	<i>Far from the Madding Crowd</i>		
Hughes, Ted	Poetry		
Hugo, Victor (French)	<i>Notre-Dame of Paris</i> (Sturrock Translation)		
Hugo, Victor (French)	<i>Les Miserables</i> (Fahnestock & MacAfee Trans.)		
Huxley, Aldous	<i>Brave New World</i>		
Jonson, Ben	Selected poetry or drama		
Keats, John	Poetry		
Malory, Sir Thomas	<i>L'Morte d'Arthur</i>		
Mansfield, Katherine	Multiple short stories		



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The following selections may lack an abundance of research. Though research requirements will be modified for some of these selections, only a student with strong research skills and a genuine grasp of theoretical application should select from the following list. Due to the challenges presented by the following works and the subject matter presented by some, parental permission must be given for the selections below

Woolfe, Virginia

To the Lighthouse

I _____ give my son/daughter permission to read and research his or her chosen work. I understand both that the work may present a challenge for the research and composition of the paper and that the subject matter of the book may be for a mature reader.

Achebe, Chinua (Nigerian)	<i>Things Fall Apart</i>
Adams, Douglas	<i>Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</i>
Blake, William	<i>Songs of Innocence and Experience</i>
Burnett, Frances Hodgson	<i>A Little Princess</i>
Burnett, Frances Hodgson	<i>Little Lord Fauntleroy</i>
Burnett, Frances Hodgson	<i>The Secret Garden</i>
Christie, Agatha	Selected novel
Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan	<i>The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes</i>
du Maurier, Daphne	<i>Rebecca</i>
Eliot, T.S.	<i>The Cocktail Party</i>
Forster, E. M.	<i>A Passage to India</i>
Grahame, Kenneth	<i>The Wind in the Willows</i>
Greene, Graham	<i>The Power and the Glory</i>
Jabavu, Noni (South African)	<i>The Ochre People</i>
Kipling, Rudyard	<i>Kim</i>
McCullough, Colleen	<i>The Thorn Birds</i>
Mda, Zakes (South African)	<i>The Heart of Redness</i>
Montgomery, L.M.(Canadian)	<i>Anne of Green Gables</i>
Paton, Alan (South African)	<i>Cry, The Beloved Country</i>
Radcliffe, Ann	<i>The Mysteries of Udolpho</i>
Ransome, Arthur	<i>Swallows and Amazons</i>
Rowling, J.K.	Harry Potter series
	<i>The God of Small Things</i>
Roy, Arundhati (Indian)	
Walpole, Horace	<i>The Castle of Otranto</i>
Wilson, Jaqueline	<i>Double Act</i>
Woolfe, Virginia	<i>Mrs. Dalloway</i>