9th-12th Grade Traditional English
Summer Assignment Books and Projects

The purpose of this summer assignment is to cultivate knowledge and better prepare students for their upcoming English classes. Though none of these books are on the reading list for next year, each one of these stories has been selected due to their thematic connections to the courses and for their place in the pantheon of great books in the Western Tradition.

There are two parts to the summer assignment. Part 1 consists of picking **ONE** of the books for your upcoming grade and reading it during summer break. Once you are done reading the book, please refer to the 'Projects' section of this document to see which activities are open to you. Part 2 consists of picking and completing one project for your book. This summer assignment is not mandatory, but can earn you **extra credit** in your English class.

Summer Book Lists

Please select one book from your grade level list and choose a corresponding project.

9th Grade
Romeo and Juliet, Shakespeare
Don Quixote (Part 1), Miguel Cervantes
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, Jules Verne
St. Anthony of the Desert, Athanasius
The Fellowship of the Ring, J.R.R. Tolkien

10th Grade
Gulliver's Travels, Jonathan Swift
All Quiet on the Western Front, Erich Maria Remarque
Tartuffe, Moliere
Dracula, Bram Stoker
The Picture of Dorian Gray, Oscar Wilde

11th Grade
Unbroken, Laura Hillenbrand
The Things They Carried, Tim O'Brien
Of Mice and Men, John Steinbeck
The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald
Hannah Coulter, Wendell Berry

12th Grade
Macbeth, Shakespeare
The Screwtape Letters, C.S. Lewis
Into Thin Air, John Krakauer
One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
A Canticle for Leibowitz, Walter M. Miller

Projects

These projects are intended to reflect the student's time spent with the book as they ruminate on the themes and central ideas of the story. Therefore, a certain level of quality and effort is expected when completing a project.

Letter to the Author of the Book
- Students will write a letter to the author of the book they have read. This letter may praise or critique the book, or it may offer edits and suggestions, but it must express thoughtful reflection on the book. The letter must be 400-450 words.

Make a Book Bento
- Students will consider at least four symbols or motifs from their novel. Students will take an Instagram-worthy photo of the book, along with props that represent the objects or symbols they have selected. The photo should represent the "mood" of the novel. For each object, students will write a detailed 7-10 sentence paragraph in which they explain the importance of that item and how it furthers the plot, affects the character(s), or contributes to the theme of the work as a whole.

Act Out Two scenes from the Book
- Students will recreate two scenes from the book and film them. Though props, editing, and special effects are encouraged, they are not required. Creativity is encouraged, but the scenes must reflect an accurate understanding of the book.

Rewrite the Book's Ending
- Students will rewrite the plot points from the end of the story that they have just finished. Changes to the story must include something that affects the plot (i.e. a character living instead of dying is perfect; having them pick up a fork instead of a spoon for their last meal is not acceptable). The rewrite must use complete sentences, not bullet points or shorthand writing, and be the same relative length as the book's ending.

Create a "Fakebook" Page
- Students will create a Fakebook page (Facebook) for a major, dynamic character from the book. Students will accurately represent the daily and inner life of the character, including their friends, ideas, and major life events. Students will need a minimum of 20 posts and five images related to the book and their chosen character. The Fakebook page can be found at classtools.net. Students must create three posts before they can save their Fakebook page, and they must save their account information, or else their hard work will be erased.