

## 12th Grade English College Prep - Summer Reading 2023

Dear Parents and Senior Students:

Developing the habit of reading is important for numerous reasons. Students who commit to reading score much higher on college entrance exams than those who do not. A habit of regular reading also directly informs students' writing abilities in positive ways. Due to brain research, we also know that reading comprehension requires practice; much in the same way that musical instruments do. In short, the more we read, the better readers we become.

### Required Reading:

Since it is important for college-bound students to understand and develop personal reading preferences, each senior will be required to read ONE (**adult**) New York Times bestseller of his or her choice. The following are recommended possibilities; however, any **adult** book on the New York Times bestseller list (**that has been approved by students' parents and has not been read in a prior class**) will be acceptable. As part of a class assignment, students will write book critiques and submit them to online booksellers during the first week of school. **Therefore, students should also complete the note taking process ("How to Take Summer Reading Notes) "included at the bottom of the page.**

### Recommended New York Times Bestsellers:

*The Magnolia Story* (Chip and Joanna Gaines)

*Roaring to the Finish* (Dale Earnhardt, Jr. & Ryan McGee)

*A Serial Killer's Daughter* (Kerri Rawson)

*Unshakable Hope* (Max Lucado)

*Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy* (Eric Metaxas)

*Fish Out of Water: Finding the Meaning of Life*, (Eric Metaxas)

*Becoming Mrs. Lewis* (Patti Callahan) –An Alabama author

*Overcomer* (Dr. David Jeremiah)

### How to Take Summer Reading Notes – **Using Sticky Notes & A Vocabulary List**

Use the information below as your guide for taking notes on sticky notes & on making a vocabulary list. You may use your book with the sticky notes and your vocabulary list to when you complete an in-class writing assignment during the first week of school.

- 1. Main Idea:** You must write one sentence **on a sticky note** at the conclusion of each chapter that summarizes the main idea.
- 2. Setting:** Note **(in pencil on a sticky note)** all passages that pertain to setting. Pay special attention to the first time each setting is introduced. Don't forget to note the atmosphere.
- 3. Characters:** As you read, note passages directly and indirectly characterizing the main characters. Noteworthy passages relating to character include the following information: - The first time a character is introduced - Character description (a particular dominant trait or several characteristics) - The character's values, motives, goals, and beliefs - How the character interacts with other characters - How the character compares to other characters - The character's thoughts and actions - Contradictions in the character's thoughts, words, or actions.
- 4. Vocabulary:** As you read, locate unfamiliar words, and start a **vocabulary list**. List all unfamiliar words, the **page #** on which each was found, and the dictionary definition of the word should be written. You should have at least ten words.
- 5. Literary Devices:** **Use sticky notes** to indicate examples of literary devices such as foreshadowing, symbolism, theme, motif, conflict, climax, imagery, etc.
- 6. Connections:** Successful readers make text-to-world connections, text-to-text connections, and text-to-self connections as they read. If a character reminds you of your Uncle Fred, it is perfectly acceptable to explain so. If you are reminded of another book, music, a movie, or television show, write about the connection. If you think of something going on in the news or the world or have a question about how a passage may relate to the world, note that as well.
- 7. Questions/Comments:** **Note passages** that intrigue, please, displease, or confuse you. Since you are reading the novel over the summer, these questions will be of special value during our an in-class writing assignment that will be completed during the first week of school.

### **Suggested Reading:**

Throughout the year, our class will read several classic works, including novels, short stories and poetry. If you would like to read some of these ahead of time, the following are recommended:

*Beowulf* (author unknown)

*Hamlet: Prince of Denmark*, William Shakespeare

*The Importance of Being Earnest*, Oscar Wilde

*Death on the Nile*, Agatha Christie

Anton Chekhov's One-Act Plays