



GREATER ATLANTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2024 College Prep English 9 Summer Reading

The primary goal for this summer reading assignment is for all rising CP English 9 students to read two books that they genuinely enjoy. Students will be held accountable for these books with AR reading comprehension tests.

Directions:

1. There are two lists of books on this document. Students must choose (at least) **ONE** book from **EACH** list to read during the summer break from school – for a total of **TWO** books this summer.
2. Students must pass AR tests for both books by the end of the first day of the fall 2024 semester. There are two ways to do this:
 - a. Students can (and are encouraged to) come to campus during the summer and take their AR tests in the Liles Media Center – on one of the Summer Library Days posted on the summer academics page. The library is open on specific dates during the summer for this purpose, so please take advantage of it.
 - b. Students can take their AR tests in class on the first day of school.
3. While reading, students are encouraged to take notes. If they do so, they will be allowed to consult their notes before taking their AR tests.
4. At the end of this document is a guide for reading comprehension. Students and parents, please take the time to read this guide and to utilize the stated skills as you read this summer.
5. Students should be prepared to use their knowledge of their chosen books to participate in individual and group activities once school begins in August.

Happy reading!

List 1: Fantasy – Dystopia – Adventure

Choose **one** of the following books to read. You must also pass an AR test for this book.



The Knife of Never Letting Go by Patrick Ness

Pursued by power-hungry Prentiss and mad minister Aaron, young Todd and Viola set out across New World searching for answers about Todd's colony's true past and seeking a way to warn the ship bringing hopeful settlers from Old World.



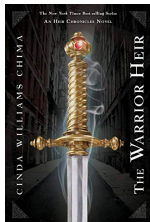
Girl of Fire and Thorns by Rae Carson

A bored, lonely, and fearful sixteen-year-old princess discovers her heroic destiny after being married to the king of a neighboring country in turmoil and pursued by enemies seething with dark magic. She soon begins to understand that she is stronger and more capable than she originally realized.



The Only Thing to Fear by Caroline Tung Richmond

Nearly 80 years after Hitler's armies won the war, 16-year-old Zara St. James lives in the Shenandoah hills, still under the rule of the Nazis. But a resistance movement is growing.



The Warrior Heir by Cindy Williams Chima

After learning about his magical ancestry and his own warrior powers, sixteen-year-old Jack embarks on a training program to fight in the Wizards' Game.



Legend by Marie Lu

In a dark future, when North America has split into two warring nations, 15-year-old famous criminal Day and prodigy June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover they have a common enemy.

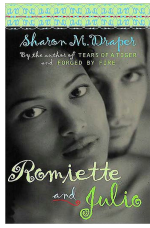


Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi

Seventeen-year-old Zélie, her older brother Tzain, and rogue princess Amari fight to restore magic to the land and activate a new generation of magi.

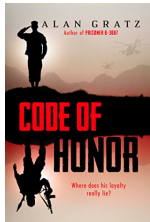
List 2: Realism – Coming of Age – Historical

Choose **one** of the following books to read. You must also pass an AR test for this book.



Romiette and Julio by Sharon Draper

A modern retelling of Romeo and Juliet, that features an African American Romiette and a Hispanic Julio dealing with racial prejudice. Romiette and Julio discover that they attend the same high school after meeting on the internet.



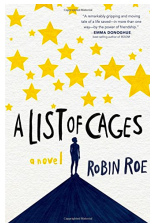
Code of Honor by Alan Gratz

When Iranian American Kamran Smith learns that his big brother, Darius, has been labelled a terrorist, he sets out to piece together the codes and clues that will save his brother's life and his country from a deadly terrorist attack.



When I Was the Greatest by Jason Reynolds

Sixteen-year-old Ali lives in a Brooklyn neighborhood known for guns and drugs, where he manages to stay out of trouble until going to the wrong party. Tagging along are his two friends, a boy who acts too tough for his own good, and his brother who knits to control the tics brought on by tourettes syndrome.



A List of Cages by Robin Roe

When Adam is reunited with Julian, a foster brother he hasn't seen in years, he soon realizes that Julian is keeping dangerous secrets, and Adam is determined to help.



The Serpent King by Jeff Zentner

The son of a radical preacher faces personal demons as he and his two outcast friends try to make it through their senior year of high school without letting the small-town culture destroy their creative spirits.



The Downstairs Girl by Stacey Lee

By day, Jo Kuan works as a lady's maid for the cruel Caroline Payne, the daughter of one of the wealthiest men in Atlanta. By night, Jo moonlights as the pseudonymous author of a newspaper advice column.

Reading Comprehension Guide

Goal: GAC graduates are prepared for college level texts; students should be able to embrace whatever reading is necessary to pursue their chosen field of study. To that end, it is essential that students continuously build their reading comprehension skills. Here are several ways that parents and students can use summer reading to strengthen their skills and confidence:

Focus: reading requires focus; remove as many distractions as possible.

- Cell phones, computers, TV, music, and loud conversation all reduce the ability to focus.
- When reading, be aware of moments when focus is lost and **read the text again**.

Question: Asking and answering questions about a text will build comprehension. Parents can be particularly helpful here by asking their child questions about the text they are reading. Students should also learn to ask these questions of themselves.

- What do you expect to happen next?
- What problems have arisen and how are they solved?
- Why are characters making these choices?

As readers mature, higher level questions can be used

- What do you think the author is trying to show or what is the author's perspective?
- Can you identify a theme? Is there an idea that appears in multiple ways?
- Relate the ideas of the book to personal experiences or opinions.

Summarize: Skilled readers summarize texts as they go, particularly with challenging or lengthy books. Developing this habit will increase comprehension immediately and allow parents to identify where help is needed.

- When you finish a portion of a book or finish for the day, take the time to write a 2-sentence summary of what you have read.
- Be specific; use character names and important events
- If you have developed questions about what you are reading, write them down.

Visualizing: Develop the habit of visualizing the story; for many students, this will aid recollection and engagement.

Audio: Audiobooks can increase comprehension, but should **not** totally replace print for students.

- In the 9th grade, audio is not a substitute for reading a book in print. Audio can be a wonderful help to many students, but at this level it should always be paired with a physical book.
- Audio may help with fluency; professional readers are good models of correct inflection.

Feedback: comprehension tests are given to aid students in knowing when they truly understand a text and when they do not.

- Feedback is essential for improvement.
- The strategies given should increase performance on tests.
- If the feedback is negative, work on the skills & strategies above or seek additional help.