

Upper School English Summer 2026 Reading Assignment

Successful scholars and thinkers have the ability to consider ideas from multiple perspectives; they gain exposure to these ideas through conversations—both in person and with a text. This is why reading is so important to academic success; it exposes us to new worlds, ideas, perspectives, and opinions.

It is our desire to help you build a life-long habit of reading, foster excellence in reflective and analytical thinking skills, and establish a common literary experience for our class discussions.

Summer 2025 Reading Selections	
Course	Book
English I	<i>Same Kind of Different as Me</i> by Ron Hall and Denver Moore
English I Honors	<i>Same Kind of Different as Me</i> by Ron Hall and Denver Moore <i>The Scarlet Pimpernel</i> by Baroness Orczy
English II	<i>A Separate Peace</i> by John Knowles
English II Honors	<i>The Count of Monte Cristo</i> by Alexandre Dumas (Bantam Classics Edition)
English III	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury
English III AP	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury and Choose one of the following: <i>The Boys in the Boat</i> by Daniel James Brown <i>Radium Girls</i> by Kate Moore
English IV: British Literature	<i>And Then There Were None</i> by Agatha Christie
English IV: Sports Literature	<i>Bleachers</i> by John Grisham
English IV AP	Choose one of the following: <i>Wuthering Heights</i> by Emily Bronte <i>1984</i> by George Orwell
Dual Enrollment Composition I	A non-fiction book of your choice (200 pages or more)

***Note:** By studying a diverse body of texts we will be introduced to literature that, at times, describes behavior and expresses ideas that conflict with the Christian view of the human situation and the values of Liberty Christian School. Literature reflects Truth in two ways: 1) The Truth of the universe pervades our writing and appears as symbols, themes, thoughts and ideas expressed in literature. 2) Sometimes literature shows the need for God through the emptiness and actions a character accepts or the writing reveals. As a mature audience, we will be able to evaluate the material and literature through a Biblical Worldview perspective when we discuss and study material in class.

Your understanding of each text will be assessed in the form of an **argumentative essay** written in class during the first week of school. An argumentative essay is a genre of writing that requires responding to a prompt by taking a position supported with concisely communicated evidence. In other words, you will be asked to respond to a question or statement with your original thoughts relating to a text or texts you read, supported with evidence from the text(s), drawn from your annotations and/or dialectical journal.

[Upper School Essay Grading Rubric](#)

Click on the links below for information to help you successfully write a high-quality argumentative essay:

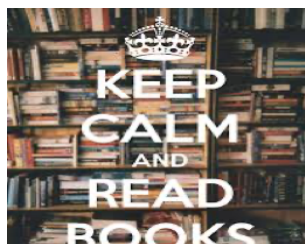
[Essay Writing Tutorial with Types of Essays and Examples](#) [Writing Argumentative Essays](#)

You are encouraged to annotate and/or keep a dialectical journal as you read and reflect on the summer texts, taking particular notice of the style, characters, plot progression, literary devices, motifs, allusions, biblical applications, and symbols *in connection with the major themes and ideas of the text*. **You should be prepared to return to school and use these annotations and reflections for in-class discussions and written assessments.**

Annotations and dialectical journals help us “converse” with the text by giving readers a way to engage, question, ponder, and reflect on what they read. Annotations may include brief notes, questions, highlighted passages, sticky notes, or coded references that can be reviewed at a later time. You may find the videos below helpful as you prepare to “have a conversation” with your summer texts.

[University of Texas English Department - How to Read Actively](#) [Tips for Annotation](#) [How to Write a Dialectical Journal](#)

Annotations and journaling are primarily for your benefit and serve as tools to record interesting literary elements and passages you may want to reference as you write your in-class essay. **However, students who submit a well-annotated novel and/or thoughtful and thorough dialectical journal on the day of the in-class essay, may receive extra points on their essay.**



[Dialectical Journal Guidelines](#)