Summer 2026 Summer Reading Assignment

Students at Dallas Lutheran School have always been assigned summer reading. Reading lists and assessments have varied year to year. This year, I am combining something old and something new. Students may choose any of the books in the lists appropriate to their grade level. The assignment is to keep a reader's response journal on that book. **The journal will be due the first week of school (August 13 or 14).** Each list includes classic literature, Christian fiction, contemporary fiction, and nonfiction options. Parents are asked to monitor their children's choices to assure that students 1) do NOT read books they have read before, 2) DO read unabridged, complete versions of the books 3) do NOT watch a movie version of the book and 4) DO read books parents consider appropriate. Audio books may be listened to along with reading the printed version – slow down the audio to move at the pace you can decode written language.

The reader's response journal may be typed or handwritten. Here are the basic requirements:

1. After each chapter (or cluster of 2-3 chapters if your chapters are less than 5 pages), write a one paragraph summary followed by a one paragraph response
2. The summary should explain what happened/what you learned in that chapter (or those chapters), identifying characters when necessary
3. Your response is a personal reaction to and/or connection with the information, characters and/or plot. It should explore your own ideas, opinions and experiences in some detail. This should be longer than the summary but may still be one paragraph
4. I am less interested in what you comprehended (summary) and more interested in what you thought or how you related to characters or events (response).

Rising 6th-8th Grade Choices

A Wrinkle in Time series by Madeleine L'Engle (any one book)
Lost series (4 book series) by Tod Olsen (any one book)
Anne of Green Gables series by L. M. Montgomery (any one book)
Ranger's Apprentice series by John Flanagan (any one book)
Spirit Animals series by various authors (any one book you haven't read)
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgsen Burnett
The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankenweiler by E.L. Konigsburg
Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes
The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier
The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi
Crispin: The Cross of Lead by Avi
Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two by Joseph Bruchac
The Book Thief by Markus Zusak
Yellow Star by Jennifer Roy
The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom
The Story of My Life by Helen Keller
All Creatures Great and Small by James Herriott

Boys of Grit Who Never Gave Up by Archer Wallace

Rising 9th-10th Grade Choices

The Iliad by Homer (Fagles translation)
The Last of the Mohicans series by James Fenimore Cooper (any one book)
The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane
A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court by Mark Twain
The Time Machine by H. G. Wells
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne
The Once and Future King by T. H. White
The Outsiders OR That Was Then This is Now by S. E. Hinton
The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod: 9th Grade Slays OR 10th Grade Bleeds by Heather Brewer
Losers Bracket by Chris Crutcher
Dearest Josephine by Caroline George
Under Rose-Tainted Skies by Louise Gornall
Charlotte Holmes series by Brittany Cavallaro (any one book)
Peace Like a River by Leif Enger
Through Gates of Splendor by Elisabeth Elliot
Night by Elie Wiesel
Don't Waste Your Life by John Piper
Arise: Live Out Your Faith and Dreams in Whatever Field You Find Yourself by Clayton and Ellen Kershaw
Scent of the Missing: Love and Partnership with a Search and Rescue Dog by Susannah Charleston

Rising 11th-12th Grade Choices

The Divine Comedy by Dante
Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift
Emma by Jane Austen
The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne
A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens
Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe
A Study in Scarlet by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
This Side of Paradise by F. Scott Fitzgerald
A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway
The Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison
Redeeming Love by Francine Rivers
A-Y Mysteries by Sue Grafton (any one book)
By Darkness Hid by Jill Williamson
Thirteen Doorways, Wolves Behind Them All by Laura Ruby
1776 by David McCullough
Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave by Frederick Douglass
Autobiography by Benjamin Franklin
Silent Spring by Rachel Carson
Breaking Night by Liz Murray