

# Lighthouse Christian Academy

## Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Summer Reading and Writing Assignments

This summer, you will need to read two books:

- [\*The Wind in the Willows\*](#) by Kenneth Grahame
- one other book of your choice from the list given.

Please see the requirements for the reading assignments on the following pages. Don't hesitate to contact me regarding any questions you may have.

In addition, if they do not already have their own email address, **please have your child create an email account in Gmail**. This coming school year, they may need to be able to submit assignments electronically, as well as access information that's shared with them. [Click here](#) to help them create an email account in Google.

Finally, **students will need to continue becoming proficient keyboarders**, because all of the writing assignments you submit in upper school will need to be typed. Please set up an account for the online typing tutorial that we're using by clicking here:

<https://lcacademy.typingclub.com>.

**Students do NOT need to have an email address to login.** Follow the link and enter the username and password that I have created for you. Each student's username and password are the same "word" based on the student's first name and first letter of their last name. For instance, Brian Wilson's username is **brianw** and his password is **brianw**. **Lowercase for both username and password.**

Lessons take less than a minute to complete, and I suggest the students practice for 5 minutes a day. The lessons are fun and rewarding, and I will keep track of the students' progress remotely. Students will receive a grade on their completion of the typing lessons when school begins, so please take the time to practice this summer. It will pay off for the rest of their lives!

**Enjoy your summer reading, and please bring your *Wind in the Willows* book with you when you return in the fall! Have a wonderfully adventurous summer, and may God grant you rest and rejuvenation.**

In His grace,

*Mrs. Kathy Guerra*  
[k.guerra@lcacademy.org](mailto:k.guerra@lcacademy.org)

# ***The Wind in the Willows***

by Kenneth Grahame

When we return to school in September, we will discuss *The Wind in the Willows* and students will be assessed based on their knowledge of the book. Please answer the following questions in the space provided as you read the novel.

1. Write a **thorough** description of each character and his characteristics.

A. Mole: \_\_\_\_\_

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B. Toad: \_\_\_\_\_

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C. Rat: \_\_\_\_\_

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3. **Summarize the contrast between winter and summer as described in the novel.**

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4. **Badger is very wise, but, like all humans, he doesn't know everything. He does not go into society and thus thinks that manners and such are unimportant. The author thinks he is wrong. Why is it narrow to disregard social conventions as Badger does? Why are they important? Why does Badger not see this?**

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- 5. Of the four main characters in the novel, which do you most identify with (believe is most similar to you) and why?**

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- 6. We can learn much about ourselves and others by reading about the experiences of characters in literature, even if they are in the guise of animals. Toad illustrates an universal human weakness that we all have to some degree. Can you define or describe it?**

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**7. What character changed the most in *The Wind in the Willows*?**

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**8. Write a THEME (universal truth) that is found in this book.**

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# **Book Summary**

The second book that you read this summer can be any from the following list. When selecting the book, make sure to read the back cover of the book to see if it is something that may be of interest to you. It sometimes takes a chapter or two to get into a novel, but stick with it!

[\*Captains Courageous\*, by Rudyard Kipling](#)

[\*Over Sea, Under Stone\*, by Sharon Cooper](#)

[\*A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court\*, by Mark Twain](#)

[\*Watership Down\*, by Richard Adams](#)

[\*The Eagle of the Ninth\*, by Rosemary Sutcliff](#)

[\*Til We Have Faces\*, by C.S. Lewis](#)

After choosing and reading your book, you will need to **write a three-paragraph essay about the book**. Please follow the outline below to help you know what should be included in each paragraph. Your essay needs to be typed and double spaced using 12-point Times New Roman or Arial font. All spelling and grammar should be correct. **For current LCA students: all dress-ups and openers should be used throughout the paper (and marked) to demonstrate that you can use them fluidly.**

## **Paragraph 1 (5-7 sentences)**

- o Title of the book
- o Author of the book
- o Setting (where and when)
- o A basic introduction and description of the main characters. you should describe what they are like as well as their role in the story (hero, villain, etc.)

## **Paragraph 2 (8-10+ sentences)**

- o Summarize the plot of the story
- o Tell about the main problem and the solution, if any, to that problem
- o Be selective about the information you include. Only include what you think is MOST important, without leaving out too many details. Many times people do not want to give away the ending of the novel, but you need to explain how the book ends so that I know that you indeed did read and understand the novel.

## **Paragraph 3 (6+ sentences)**

- o Tell what you thought of the book (your opinion – would you recommend it to a friend) and explain why
- o What is one LESSON that you think you can learn from this book? What event or character taught you this?