

The Books We Will Be Reading...

CFCA SUMMER READING

9th Grade Book Choices:

Rising ninth graders are required to complete at least one book from the following list. Students must also do additional reading from the list for a minimum of 350 total pages:

What is the Gospel? by Greg Gilbert

The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

The Book Thief by William Golding

Lord of the Flies by William Golding

All Things Great and Small by James Herriot

Treasure Island by Robert Stevenson

Forgotten Founding Father: The Heroic Legacy of George Whitfield by Stephen Mansfield

10th Grade Book Choices:

Rising tenth graders are required to complete at least one book from the following list. Students must also do additional reading from the list for a minimum of 350 pages:

The Hobbit by JRR Tolkien

Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy

Far From the Madding Crowd by Thomas Hardy

Never Give In by Stephen Mansfield

The Chosen by Chaim Potok

One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

9th and 10th grade students will be required to turn in one full assessment packet (Major Works Data Sheet). The packet should be turned in to their English teacher on the first day of school. The assessment packet will be attached to this email.

The Books We Will Be Reading...

11th Grade Books:

Rising eleventh graders are required to complete at least two books from the following list. Students must also do additional reading from the list for a minimum of 400 total pages:

Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

My Antonia by Willa Cather

O Pioneers! by Willa Cather

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

Little Men by Louisa May Alcott

Our Town by Thornton Wilder

White Fang by Jack London

The White Horse King by Benjamin R. Merkle

The Holiness of God by R. C. Sproul

12th Grade Books:

Rising twelfth graders are required to complete at least two books from the following list. Students must also do additional reading from the list for a minimum of 400 total pages:

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen

Adam Bede by George Eliot

Till We Have Faces by CS Lewis

The Screwtape Letters by CS Lewis

Return of the Native by Thomas Hardy

Hard Times by Charles Dickens

Give Me Liberty by David J. Vaughn

Eleventh and Twelfth grade students are required to print out and fill in the High School Major Works Data Sheet for one of the completed books. Students are also required to provide a typed two – three sentence summary of each chapter for the second book. These assignments are due to the English teacher on the first day of school.

The Books We Will Be Reading...

CFCA High School Major Works Data Sheet

Name _____

Both assignments are due to their English teacher on the first day of school.

Title:

Author:

Date of Publication:

Brief biographical information about the author from the book or other source (country, time period, gender, important facts):

In your own words briefly summarize the plot (What basically happens? Just hit the high points):

The Books We Will Be Reading...

Describe the author's style (fast-paced or slowly-paced action, use of formal or informal diction, use of figures or speech, use of dialogue verses narration, point of view, tone of voice, character development, etc):

Give an example from the book that demonstrates the style (either a direct quote or a description of a scene):

The Books We Will Be Reading...

Describe the setting (time and place) of the story:

Discuss the significance of the opening scene (how does this prepare the reader for what follows?):

The Books We Will Be Reading...

Discuss the significance of the closing scene (how are the major conflicts resolved?):

Possible themes (main ideas) presented. What are the big ideas illustrated by the action?
(good vs evil, isolation, perseverance, defense of the weak, justice, judgmentalism, etc.):

The Books We Will Be Reading...

Discuss four memorable quotes from the story:

Quote (What is said)	Significance (Why it is important to the story)
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

The Books We Will Be Reading...

High School Summer Reading Summaries

9th Grade:

What is the Gospel? by Greg Gilbert - What is the gospel? It seems like a simple question, yet it has been known to incite some heated responses, even in the church. How are we to formulate a clear, biblical understanding of the gospel? Tradition, reason, and experience all leave us ultimately disappointed. If we want answers, we must turn to the Word of God. Greg Gilbert does so in *What Is the Gospel?*. Beginning with Paul's systematic presentation of the gospel in Romans and moving through the sermons in Acts, Gilbert argues that the central structure of the gospel consists of four main subjects: God, man, Christ, and a response. The book carefully examines each and then explores the effects the gospel can have in individuals, churches, and the world. Both Christian and non-Christian readers will gain a clearer understanding of the gospel in this valuable resource.

The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde - Oscar Wilde's madcap farce about mistaken identities, secret engagements, and lovers entanglements still delights readers more than a century after its 1895 publication and premiere performance. Cecily Cardew and Gwendolen Fairfax are both in love with the same mythical suitor. Jack Worthing has wooed Gwendolen as Ernest while Algernon has also posed as Ernest to win the heart of Jack's ward, Cecily. When all four arrive at Jack's country home on the same weekend the "rivals" to fight for Ernest's undivided attention and the "Ernests" to claim their beloveds pandemonium breaks loose. Only a senile nursemaid and an old, discarded hand-bag can save the day!

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck - First published in 1939, Steinbeck's Pulitzer Prize-winning epic of the Great Depression chronicles the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930s and tells the story of one Oklahoma farm family, the Joads—driven from their homestead and forced to travel west to the promised land of California. Out of their trials and their repeated collisions against the hard realities of an America divided into Haves and Have-Nots evolves a drama that is intensely human yet majestic in its scale and moral vision, elemental yet plainspoken, tragic but ultimately stirring in its human dignity. A portrait of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless, of one man's fierce reaction to injustice, and of one woman's stoical strength, the novel captures the horrors of the Great Depression and probes into the very nature of equality and justice in America.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak - It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will be busier still. By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed when she picks up a single object, partially hidden in the snow. It is The Gravedigger's Handbook, left behind there by accident, and it is her first act of book thievery. So begins a love affair with books and words, as Liesel, with the help of her accordion-playing

The Books We Will Be Reading...

foster father, learns to read. Soon she is stealing books from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library, wherever there are books to be found. But these are dangerous times. When Liesel's foster family hides a Jew in their basement, Liesel's world is both opened up, and closed down.

Lord of the Flies by William Golding - At the dawn of the next world war, a plane crashes on an uncharted island, stranding a group of schoolboys. At first, with no adult supervision, their freedom is something to celebrate; this far from civilization the boys can do anything they want. Anything. They attempt to forge their own society, failing, however, in the face of terror, sin and evil. And as order collapses, as strange howls echo in the night, as terror begins its reign, the hope of adventure seems as far from reality as the hope of being rescued. Labeled a parable, an allegory, a myth, a morality tale, a parody, a political treatise, even a vision of the apocalypse, *Lord of the Flies* is perhaps our most memorable novel about “the end of innocence, the darkness of man’s heart.”

All Creatures Great and Small by James Herriot - Delve into the magical, unforgettable world of James Herriot, the world's most beloved veterinarian, and his menagerie of heartwarming, funny, and tragic animal patients. For over forty years, generations of readers have thrilled to Herriot's marvelous tales, deep love of life, and extraordinary storytelling abilities. For decades, Herriot roamed the remote, beautiful Yorkshire Dales, treating every patient that came his way from smallest to largest, and observing animals and humans alike with his keen, loving eye.

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson - From the moment young Jim Hawkins first encounters the sinister Blind Pew at the Admiral Benbow Inn until the climactic battle for treasure on a tropic isle, the novel creates scenes and characters that have fired the imaginations of generations of readers. Written by a superb prose stylist, a master of both action and atmosphere, the story centers upon the conflict between good and evil - but in this case a particularly engaging form of evil. It is the villainy of that most ambiguous rogue Long John Silver that sets the tempo of this tale of treachery, greed, and daring.

Forgotten Founding Father: The Heroic Legacy of George Whitfield by Stephen Mansfield - For many of those who are even familiar with his name, George Whitefield is thought of as a preacher, a man connected with the Great Awakening in the 1700s. As a student at Oxford University, he experienced a spiritual awakening under the influence of John Wesley's Methodists and immediately began tending to prisoners, caring for the poor, and preaching the Christian gospel. He met with astounding success, in time speaking to larger crowds than had ever gathered in the history of England. Whitefield became the most famous man of his age. His impact upon the American colonies, however, may have been his most lasting gift. In seven tours of the colonies, Whitfield preached from Georgia to Maine, calling the colonists to spiritual conversion and challenging them in their sense of national destiny. He befriended men like Benjamin Franklin, converted men like Patrick Henry, and inspired men like George

The Books We Will Be Reading...

Washington. Furthermore, when he learned that England intended to tighten her control over the colonies, Whitefield warned his American friends in sermon after sermon and even accompanied Benjamin Franklin to make the American case in the Court of Saint James. Many of the colonists considered him the father of their revolution.

10th Grade:

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien - Smaug certainly looked fast asleep, when Bilbo peeped once more from the entrance. He was just about to step out onto the floor when he caught a sudden thin ray of red from under the drooping lid of Smaug's left eye. He was only pretending to be asleep! He was watching the tunnel entrance! Whisked from his comfortable hobbit-hole by Gandalf the wizard and a band of dwarves, Bilbo Baggins finds himself caught up in a plot to raid the treasure hoard of Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon.

Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy - Acclaimed by many as the world's greatest novel, Anna Karenina provides a vast panorama of contemporary life in Russia and of humanity in general. In it Tolstoy uses his intense imaginative insight to create some of the most memorable characters in all of literature. Anna is a sophisticated woman who abandons her empty existence as the wife of Karenin and turns to Count Vronsky to fulfil her passionate nature - with tragic consequences. Levin is a reflection of Tolstoy himself, often expressing the author's own views and convictions. Throughout, Tolstoy points no moral, merely inviting us not to judge but to watch. As Rosemary Edmonds comments, 'He leaves the shifting patterns of the kaleidoscope to bring home the meaning of the brooding words following the title, 'Vengeance is mine, and I will repay.'

Far From the Madding Crowd by Thomas Hardy - Independent and spirited Bathsheba Everdene has come to Weatherbury to take up her position as a farmer on the largest estate in the area. Her bold presence draws three very different suitors: the gentleman-farmer Boldwood, soldier-seducer Sergeant Troy and the devoted shepherd Gabriel Oak. Each, in contrasting ways, unsettles her decisions and complicates her life, and tragedy ensues, threatening the stability of the whole community.

Never Give In by Stephen Mansfield - Winston Churchill was one of the most extraordinary leaders of the twentieth century. What was it that enabled him to stand so steadfastly when all those around him seemed to turn back in fear? What was it that enabled him to inspire whole nations to endure the unendurable and to achieve the unachievable when all those around him had already surrendered all hope? This remarkable new study of Churchill's leadership skill answers these questions and more. The result is an account that is as inspiring today as it was more than half a century ago when the great man's shadow fell large across the world stage. Winston Churchill was a hero.

The Books We Will Be Reading...

The Chosen by Chaim Potok - It is the now-classic story of two fathers and two sons and the pressures on all of them to pursue the religion they share in the way that is best suited to each. And as the boys grow into young men, they discover in the other a lost spiritual brother, and a link to an unexplored world that neither had ever considered before. In effect, they exchange places, and find the peace that neither will ever retreat from again. . . .

One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn - First published in the Soviet journal *Novy Mir* in 1962, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* stands as a classic of contemporary literature. The story of labor-camp inmate Ivan Denisovich Shukhov, it graphically describes his struggle to maintain his dignity in the face of communist oppression. An unforgettable portrait of the entire world of Stalin's forced work camps, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* is one of the most extraordinary literary documents to have emerged from the Soviet Union and confirms Solzhenitsyn's stature as a literary genius whose talent matches that of Dosotevsky, Turgenev, Tolstoy.

11th Grade:

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain - A nineteenth-century boy from a Mississippi River town recounts his adventures as he travels down the river with a runaway slave, encountering a family involved in a feud, two scoundrels pretending to be royalty, and Tom Sawyer's aunt who mistakes him for Tom.

My Antonia by Willa Cather - Through Jim Burden's endearing, smitten voice, we revisit the remarkable vicissitudes of immigrant life in the Nebraska heartland, with all its insistent bonds. Guiding the way are some of literature's most beguiling characters: the Russian brothers plagued by memories of a fateful sleigh ride, Antonia's desperately homesick father and self-indulgent mother, and the coy Lena Lingard. Holding the pastoral society's heart, of course, is the bewitching, free-spirited Antonia.

O Pioneers! by Willa Cather - No other work of fiction so faithfully conveys both the sharp physical realities and the mythic sweep of the transformation of the American frontier—and the transformation of the people who settled it. Cather's heroine is Alexandra Bergson, who arrives on the wind-blasted prairie of Hanover, Nebraska, as a girl and grows up to make it a prosperous farm. But this archetypal success story is darkened by loss, and Alexandra's devotion to the land may come at the cost of love itself.

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott - Generations of readers young and old, male and female, have fallen in love with the March sisters of Louisa May Alcott's most popular and enduring novel, *Little Women*. Here are talented tomboy and author-to-be Jo, tragically frail Beth, beautiful Meg, and romantic, spoiled Amy, united in their devotion to each other and their struggles to survive in New England during the Civil War. The book explores such timeless

The Books We Will Be Reading...

themes as love and death, war and peace, the conflict between personal ambition and family responsibilities, and the clash of cultures between Europe and America.

Little Men by Louisa May Alcott - With two sons of her own, and twelve rescued orphan boys filling the informal school at Plumfield, Jo March -- now Jo Bhaer -- couldn't be happier. But despite the warm and affectionate help of the whole March family, boys have a habit of getting into scrapes, and there are plenty of troubles and adventures in store.

Our Town by Thornton Wilder - *Our Town* was first produced and published in 1938 to wide acclaim. This Pulitzer Prize-winning drama of life in the small village of Grover's Corners, an allegorical representation of all life, has become a classic. It is Thornton Wilder's most renowned and most frequently performed play.

White Fang by Jack London - White Fang is part dog and part wolf, and the lone survivor of his family. In his lonely world, he soon learns to follow the harsh law of the North--kill or be killed. But nothing in White Fang's life can prepare him for the cruel owner who turns him into a vicious killer. Will White Fang ever know the kindness of a gentle master?

The White Horse King by Benjamin R. Merkle - Down swept the Vikings from the frigid North. Across the English coastlands and countryside they raided, torched, murdered, and destroyed all in their path. Farmers, monks, and soldiers all fell bloody under the Viking sword, hammer, and axe. Then, when the hour was most desperate, came an unlikely hero. King Alfred rallied the battered and bedraggled kingdoms of Britain and after decades of plotting, praying, and persisting, finally triumphed over the invaders. Alfred's victory reverberates to this day: He sparked a literary renaissance, restructured Britain's roadways, revised the legal codes, and revived Christian learning and worship. It was Alfred's accomplishments that laid the groundwork for Britain's later glories and triumphs in literature, liturgy, and liberty.

The Holiness of God by R.C. Sproul - Central to God's character is the quality of holiness. Yet, even so, most people are hard-pressed to define what God's holiness precisely is. Many preachers today avoid the topic altogether because people today don't quite know what to do with words like "awe" or "fear." R. C. Sproul, in this classic work, puts the holiness of God in its proper and central place in the Christian life. He paints an awe-inspiring vision of God that encourages Christian to become holy just as God is holy. Once you encounter the holiness of God, your life will never be the same.

The Books We Will Be Reading...

12th Grade:

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen - Since its immediate success in 1813, *Pride and Prejudice* has remained one of the most popular novels in the English language. Jane Austen called this brilliant work "her own darling child" and its vivacious heroine, Elizabeth Bennet, "as delightful a creature as ever appeared in print." The romantic clash between the opinionated Elizabeth and her proud beau, Mr. Darcy, is a splendid performance of civilized sparring. And Jane Austen's radiant wit sparkles as her characters dance a delicate quadrille of flirtation and intrigue, making this book the most superb comedy of manners of Regency England.

Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen - Marianne Dashwood wears her heart on her sleeve, and when she falls in love with the dashing but unsuitable John Willoughby she ignores her sister Elinor's warning that her impulsive behaviour leaves her open to gossip and innuendo. Meanwhile Elinor, always sensitive to social convention, is struggling to conceal her own romantic disappointment, even from those closest to her. Through their parallel experience of love—and its threatened loss—the sisters learn that sense must mix with sensibility if they are to find personal happiness in a society where status and money govern the rules of love.

Adam Bede by George Eliot - The story of a beautiful country girl's seduction by the local squire and its bitter, tragic sequel is an old and familiar one which George Eliot invests with peculiar and haunting power. A bestseller from the moment of publication, *Adam Bede*, although on one level a rich and loving re-creation of a small community shaken to its core, is more than a charming, faultlessly evoked pastoral. However much the reader may sympathize with Hetty Sorrel and identify with Arthur Donnithorne, her seducer, and with Adam Bede, the man Hetty betrays, it is George Eliot's creation of the distant aesthetic whole - the complex, multifarious life of Hayslope - which so grips the reader's imagination.

Till We Have Faces by C.S. Lewis - In this timeless tale of two mortal princesses- one beautiful and one unattractive- C.S. Lewis reworks the classical myth of Cupid and Psyche into an enduring piece of contemporary fiction. This is the story of Orual, Psyche's embittered and ugly older sister, who possessively and harmfully loves Psyche. Much to Orual's frustration, Psyche is loved by Cupid, the god of love himself, setting the troubled Orual on a path of moral development. Set against the backdrop of Glome, a barbaric, pre-Christian world, the struggles between sacred and profane love are illuminated as Orual learns that we cannot understand the intent of the gods "till we have faces" and sincerity in our souls and selves.

The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis - *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis is a classic masterpiece of religious satire that entertains readers with its sly and ironic portrayal of human life and foibles from the vantage point of Screwtape, a highly placed assistant to "Our Father Below." At once wildly comic, deadly serious, and strikingly original, C.S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters* is the most engaging account of temptation—and triumph over it—ever written.

The Books We Will Be Reading...

Return of the Native by Thomas Hardy - Tempestuous Eustacia Vye passes her days dreaming of passionate love and the escape it may bring from the small community of Egdon Heath. Hearing that Clym Yeobright is to return from Paris, she sets her heart on marrying him, believing that through him she can leave rural life and find fulfilment elsewhere. But she is to be disappointed, for Clym has dreams of his own, and they have little in common with Eustacia's. Their unhappy marriage causes havoc in the lives of those close to them, in particular Damon Wildeve, Eustacia's former lover, Clym's mother and his cousin Thomasin. The Return of the Native illustrates the tragic potential of romantic illusion and how its protagonists fail to recognize their opportunities to control their own destinies.

Hard Times by Charles Dickens - Published in 1854, the story concerns one Thomas Gradgrind, a "fanatic of the demonstrable fact," who raises his children, Tom and Louisa, in a stifling and arid atmosphere of grim practicality. Without a moral compass to guide them, the children sink into lives of desperation and despair, played out against the grim background of Coketown, a wretched community shadowed by an industrial behemoth. Louisa falls into a loveless marriage with Josiah Bounderby, a vulgar banker, while the unscrupulous Tom, totally lacking in principle, becomes a thief who frames an innocent man for his crime. Witnessing the degradation and downfall of his children, Gradgrind realizes that his own misguided principles have ruined their lives .

Give Me Liberty by David J. Vaughn - Historians speak of the shot heard 'round the world, but the American Revolution might better be described in terms of the speech heard 'round the world. For more than two hundred years, the impassioned speech of Patrick Henry - I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death! - has resounded in the hearts and minds of freedom-loving people everywhere. Henry's life embodied the spirit of American courage and patriotism. Give Me Liberty goes beyond the oratory and eloquence to portray this remarkable man, his family, his ideas, and his times.