



KELLENBERG MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

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Summer Reading 2026!

“But in reading great literature I become a thousand men and yet remain myself. Like the night sky in the Greek poem, I see with a myriad eyes, but it is still I who see. Here, as in worship, in love, in moral action, and in knowing, I transcend myself; and am never more myself than when I do. - C.S. Lewis

Dear Students,

As the weather warms up, we remember that summer time is making its way toward us. Summer after summer, we invite you to delve into your summer reading assignment so that you may experience a piece of the world, a slice of the universe that you may not otherwise encounter. In recent years, the assignment has been for your English class only, with an assessment focused on your reading of the content and your analysis of the elements of the story: character development, plot, conclusion, and more. However, as C.S. Lewis explains in the quote above, reading is not confined to English class; rather, it spans all disciplines whether you are reading an autobiography of an historical figure, a science research article, a complex word problem for math, or passages from the Bible. Through reading, you explore many topics and situations through many eyes. In an effort to convey to you how valuable, cross-curricular, and enriching reading truly is, we are broadening our summer reading assignment beginning this year. Below you will find the requirements and selections *per grade level that the students are entering* across English, religion, and history.

Grade 9

For English class, choose ONE book:

<i>The Hunger Games</i>	Suzanne Collins
<i>The Good Earth</i>	Pearl S. Buck
<i>The Alchemist</i>	Paolo Coelho
<i>A Single Shard</i>	Linda Sue Park

For Religion class, read:

<i>The Gospel of Luke</i>	<i>The Bible</i>
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Grade 10

For History class, read:

<i>Animal Farm</i>	George Orwell
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For English class, choose ONE book:

<i>Catcher in the Rye</i>	J.D. Salinger
<i>Martin and Bobby</i>	Claire Rudolph Murphy
<i>The Things They Carried</i>	Tim O'Brien
<i>Before We Were Yours</i>	Lisa Wingate
<i>The Help</i>	Kathryn Stockett

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn
If You Come Softly

Betty Smith
Jacqueline Woodson

For Religion class, choose ONE work:

Story of a Soul

Therese of Lisieux

To The Heights: A Novel Based on Pier Giorgio Frassati Brian Kennelly

Grade 11

For History class, choose ONE work:

1776

David McCullough

Founder's Son: A Life of Abraham Lincoln Richard Brookhiser

For English class, choose ONE book:

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

Maya Angelou

The Water Dancer

Ta-Nehisi Coates

Rebecca

Daphne du Maurier

Ordinary People

Judith Guest

Brave New World

Aldous Huxley

***Maus* (volume one only)**

Art Spiegelman

For Religion class, read:

Screwtape Letters

C.S. Lewis

Grade 12

For History class, choose ONE work:

The Old Lion: A Novel of Theodore Roosevelt Jeff Shaara

Leadership in Turbulent Times Doris Kearns Goodwin

For English class, choose ONE book:

Death of a Salesman

Arthur Miller

The Storyteller's Secret

Sejal Badani

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly

Jean-Dominique Bauby and Jeremy Leggatt

Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion Father Gregory Boyle

The Cradle Will Fall

Mary Higgins Clark

Long Way Down

Jason Reynolds

Beneath a Scarlet Sky

Mark T. Sullivan

Educated

Tara Westover

The Odyssey

Homer (Robert Fagles Translation)

For Religion class, read:

A Hiker's Guide to Purgatory

Michael Norton

More details on the assessments for each subject will be communicated as the summer ends, and we begin our first trimester marking period. Realize that, instead of dialoguing with only your English teacher about these books, now you will be able to discuss with and pose questions to a wider array of your classroom teachers and a larger pool of classmates. We hope that you are as excited as we are to crack open these books!

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