

## Westwood Christian School Grades 6-12 Summer Reading 2024-2025

In order to build student vocabulary, develop thinking skills, encourage reading and prepare for fall classes, WCS has a *required reading summer program* for middle and high school students (grades 6-12). All students must read the required book (s) for each grade (listed in bold print) and one other book (Honors 9 and 10, two other books).

Students are to **read complete, unabridged versions** of all works. Westwood Christian School does not necessarily endorse all the contents of the books. It is understood that to meet certain academic standards and to provide books of various fields of research and contents, WCS must of necessity have many books of different types. The position of WCS is well understood to be in strict adherence to the doctrines and principles taught in the Scriptures. If a movie has been made of a book, the report must be about the book and not the movie; students who write a report on the movie will receive a zero and will be required to submit a new report (the grades will be averaged). Please consider that often a book that is acceptable may be interpreted inaccurately or inappropriately in a film.

The **required book(s) will be tested the second week of school**. Students who have already read the books should re-read them so that they will be prepared for the test. No book report will be needed for this book. Required books are listed below.

This year students will be able to **choose** their second book. We're providing a list of books (page 2) for your convenience, but you may choose other books. When selecting your books, please keep in mind the following standards:

1. Select a book that is new to the student—this must be the first time the student has read the book.
2. Make sure the book is appropriate for the student's age, preferably the grade just completed or the next one above
3. Choose books that meet the Philippians 4:8 standard: true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous, deserving of praise

The project over the second/choice book is a project of the student's choice. Choose from one of the options on page 3.

**Plagiarism:** this report is to be the student's original, first-time work, not a summary or a paraphrase from another source. Plagiarized reports will receive a zero.

Please call the school if you have any questions.

### Required (tested) books for each grade:

**Sixth Grade** *Somebody on This Bus is Going to be Famous* (Cheaney)

**Seventh Grade** *The Running Dream* (Van Draanen)

**Eighth Grade** *Refugee* (Gratz)

**Ninth Grade** *Gifted Hands* (Carson)

**Tenth Grade** *Things Fall Apart* (Achebe)

**Eleventh Grade** *The Great Gatsby* (Fitzgerald) and *Up from Slavery* (Washington)

**AP English Language** *The Great Gatsby* (Fitzgerald), *"Daisy Miller"* (James) and *Up from Slavery* (Washington)

**Twelfth Grade** *Northanger Abbey* (Austen) and *The Screwtape Letters* (Lewis)

**AP English Literature** *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* (Foster), *Northanger Abbey* (Austen) and *The Screwtape Letters* (Lewis)

## Suggested Books

### Sixth grade

*Mimosa* (Carmichael)  
*The Last Newspaper Boy in America* (Corbett)  
*The Great Brain Is Back* (Fitzgerald)  
*The Magician's Elephant* (DiCamillo)  
*Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer* (Grisham)  
*Warriors into the Wild* (Hunt)  
*Death Cloud* (Lane)  
*A Wrinkle in Time* (L'Engle)  
*The Lions of Little Rock* (Levine)  
*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (Lewis)  
*Flight of the Eagles* (Morris)  
*Five Kingdoms: Sky Raiders* (Mull)  
*Hatchet* (Paulsen)  
*Kingdom Keepers: Disney After Dark* (Pearson)

### Seventh Grade

*Tangerine* (Bloor)  
*Out of My Mind* (Draper)  
*The Ruins of Gorlan* (Flanagan)  
*Summer Promise* (Gunn)  
*I Am David* (Holm)  
*Stormbreaker* (Horowitz)  
*Schooled* (Korman)  
*A Wind in the Door* (L'Engle)  
*Six Months to Live* (McDaniel)  
*Cinder* (Meyer)  
*The Boy Who Spoke Dog* (Morgan)  
*The False Prince* (Nielsen)  
*The Lost Hero* (Riordan)  
*Loser* (Spinelli)  
*The Mysterious Benedict Society* (Stewart)  
*The Hobbit* (Tolkien)

### Eighth Grade

*The Crossover* (Alexander)  
*Fever 1793* (Anderson)  
*Hound of the Baskervilles* (Doyle)  
*Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25* (Evans)  
*One for the Murphys* (Hunt)  
*Restart* (Korman)  
*A Horse and His Boy* (Lewis)  
*Peter Pan in Scarlet* (McCaughrean)  
*Anne of Green Gables* (Montgomery)  
*Okay for Now* (Schmidt)  
*IQ: Independence Hall* (Smith)

### Ninth Grade

*Alice in Wonderland* (Carroll)  
*Hard Times* (Dickens)  
*Tears of a Tiger* (Draper)  
*Two from Galilee* (Holmes)  
*The Jungle Book* (Kipling)  
*A Separate Peace* (Knowles)  
*Salt to the Sea* (Sepetys)  
*The Fellowship of the Ring* (Tolkien)  
*The Little Prince* (de Saint-Exupéry)  
*Unwind* (Shusterman)

### Tenth Grade

*The Good Earth* (Buck)  
*The Count of Monte Cristo* (Dumas)  
*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (Doyle)  
*Through Gates of Splendor* (Elliot)  
*The Lie: Evolution* (Ham)  
*The Other Wes Moore* (Moore)  
*The Scarlet Pimpernel* (Orczy)  
*The Atonement Child* (Rivers)  
*Evidence not Seen* (Rose)  
*The Two Towers* (Tolkien)  
*Mistaken Identity* (Van Ryn)

### Eleventh Grade

*Little Women* (Alcott)  
*Candle in the Darkness* (Austin)  
*My Antonia* (Cather)  
*The Story of My Life* (Keller)  
*To Kill a Mockingbird* (Lee)  
*Gone with the Wind* (Mitchell)  
*The Chosen* (Potok)  
*Uncle Tom's Cabin* (Stowe)  
*Innocents Abroad* (Twain)  
*A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (Twain)  
*Walden* (Thoreau)  
*Age of Innocence* (Wharton)

### Twelfth Grade

*Emma* (Austen)  
*Pride and Prejudice* (Austen)  
*Wuthering Heights* (Bronte)  
*Robinson Crusoe* (Defoe)  
*Rebecca* (DeMaurier)  
*Great Expectations* (Dickens)  
*Nicholas Nickleby* (Dickens)  
*Crime and Punishment* (Dostoevsky)  
*Brave New World* (Huxley)  
*Out of the Silent Planet* (Lewis)  
*The Tempest* (Shakespeare)  
*Gulliver's Travels* (Swift)  
*The Glass Menagerie* (Williams)

## Project Ideas

**Students may complete a project of their choice, following these guidelines. ALL work needs to be the student's own, original, first-time work (except the research on the author).**

### **Option 1: Create a poster, tri-fold brochure, newspaper or project board including this information**

1. Title of the book
2. Picture (may be printed) and one-paragraph description of the author (include the source)
3. Original drawing of one of the main settings of the book with a one-paragraph description of a major event that happened there
4. Original drawing of the main character of the book (include significant physical features) with a one-paragraph description of the type of person the main character is (kind, friendly, generous, etc., explaining what actions in the story show the character is this way)
5. A list of five major events of the book.
6. Original drawing of one of the major events with a one-paragraph description

### **Option 2: Create a movie about the book, selecting one of these options**

*Use iMovie or another format to create a film using one of these options. Please keep in mind that the teacher must be able to open and play the movie in order for you receive credit.*

1. Create a video diary, retelling the major events of the story from a different character's point of view.
2. You can either tell the story or have friends and family members act it out.
3. Create a vlog, telling about the book explaining why other people should read it. Include author information, the main character, a brief summary, the major conflict, how the major conflict was resolved and one funny situation.

### **Option 3: Answer these questions**

The following questions should be answered in order. You must write a single 3-8 sentence paragraph (75-100 words) for **each** question. Use the RAFT format explained above for each paragraph.

**R**—Restate the question

**A**—Answer the question asked

**F**—"For Example" (give specific examples/reasons for your answer)

**T**—Tie it together (conclude/ summarize your main thoughts)

1. Who is the author of this book? Where and when did the author live? What significant elements of the author's life are similar to events in this book?
2. What is the setting (both time and place) of this book? How is the setting significant to the story?
3. Who is the most important character in this book? What are the character's most important qualities?
4. When did the inciting moment take place? What is the main conflict? How did the main character solve that problem?
5. What character do you like best, know someone like, or relate to most? Why?
6. Authors often use surprise to move the story along. Describe one unexpected event or surprising reaction to a character.
7. Were you satisfied with the book's resolution? Why or why not?
8. What was your overall response to the book? To whom would you recommend it?
9. As you read, think of other books you've read, movies you've seen, or television shows you've watched. Describe how it's similar to one of those other experiences.
10. Authors write with the purpose of conveying a message or sharing a value or idea. What message did you pick up from this book? What did the author want you to learn or understand about life from this novel?
11. Do you think this book should remain on the summer reading list? Why or why not?