



☀️☀️ Summer Required Reading List ☀️☀️

for 7th—12th Grade

2010-11 nh

As you bask in the scorching sun or laze about in the A/C, don't forget to think ahead...

In the interest of maintaining high-level reading and intellectual stimulation over the summer months, Heritage School requires that all upper level students accomplish the following reading requirements. You should start your summer required reading **no later than JULY** [in time to finish but still late enough remember something for the test we'll give you during the first few days of school]. In addition to the testing, students will participate in class discussions and composition based on the summer reading. **You should purchase your novels (unabridged version only) through amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, or Borders.**

<u>7th grade:</u>	<i>Treasure Island</i> by Robert Louis Stevenson *<i>The Hobbit</i> by J.R.R. Tolkien [*Suggested reading if you haven't read it already—You will read Tolkien's <i>Fellowship of the Ring</i> this coming year and <i>The Hobbit</i> is good background.]
<u>8th grade:</u>	<i>The Light in the Forest</i> by Conrad Richter <i>The Story of My Life</i> by Helen Keller [Note: Most editions contain additional pieces, letters, etc. The student is responsible for "The Story of My Life" section.]
<u>9th grade:</u>	<i>The Robe</i> by Lloyd C. Douglas
<u>10th grade:</u>	<i>Ben-Hur</i> by Lew Wallace
<u>11th grade:</u>	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee <i>The Chosen</i> by Chaim Potok
<u>12th grade:</u>	<i>1984</i> by George Orwell <i>The Screwtape Letters</i> by C.S. Lewis For Ethics: pp. xi—p. 8 from <i>Life & Death: Grappling with the Moral Dilemmas of Our Time (2nd ed.)</i> by Louis P. Pojman Mrs. Sauer has included copies of this excerpt in the summer mail-out packet.

A word about CLIFFS, Monarch, Spark Notes... (etc.)

"Study notes" are available at most bookstores. The intent of the producers of such notes is to provide notes for the student so that he/she can glean maximum benefit from the novel. Such booklets typically provide character lists, plot summaries by chapters, and analysis of the chapters and the overall novel/play. On the surface, these booklets might sound like helpful tools. They are usually produced by graduate students or professors and can be quite good. However, the usual practice for most students is to utilize the notes *INSTEAD* of reading the novel or play or to rely too heavily on the notes for interpretation of literature which Heritage School teaches the student to do on his/her own. Parents are strongly discouraged from buying such study notes for their children.

The position of Heritage School is:

- **The use of such study notes is STRONGLY discouraged.** Since our goal is to provide the student with the tools for learning, we teach students "how to read a book." We strive not only to assist the student in achieving maximum comprehension of plot and important details but also to teach students how to observe, think, and analyze a text on his/her own. Use of CLIFFS or other such notes encourages a tendency toward dependence of the student on the single interpretation of others rather than developing the ability to derive conclusions on his/her own. In addition, the student will shortchange himself/herself and miss the pleasure of reading excellent literature. Finally, research shows that reading high quality writing is the most effective tool for improving writing and writing style. Clearly, use of a plot summary cannot achieve the goal of experiencing good writing firsthand.
- **Cliffs/Monarch's or other such notes are not allowed on campus.** In keeping with our position stated above, we do not allow the students to bring these notes to school. No notes of this type are ever allowed for use on "open book" tests.