



SUMMER 2026 READING LIST FOR UPPER SCHOOL

6TH-12TH GRADE SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS

6th, 7th, and English 8 CP Students: Students should select **ONE** book from their grade-level list to read over the summer. They will be assigned a reading response on their selected book during the first week of school.

6th grade

- *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen (adventure/survival fiction)
- *Sweep*, Jonathan Auxier (fantasy)
- *Code Name Kingfisher*, Liz Kessler (historical fiction)

7th grade

- *The Benefits of Being an Octopus* by Ann Braden (realistic fiction) - contains themes of rising above rural poverty and child neglect; some students may not be ready for these more mature themes
- *The Faithful Spy*, John Hendrix (non-fiction graphic novel)
- *A Wish in the Dark*, Christina Soontornvat (fantasy)

8th grade

- *The Unwanteds* by Lisa McMann (fantasy)
- *When the World Was Ours* by Liz Kessler (historical fiction novel)
- *How Teens Win* by Jon Acuff (nonfiction)

ENGLISH 8 Honors/9 CP

Students in English 8 Honors and 9 CP should read *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee and be prepared for a written assessment during the first week of school.

ENGLISH 9 HONORS/10 CP

Students in English 9 Honors and English 10 CP should read *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding and be prepared for a written assessment during the first week of school.

ENGLISH 10 HONORS

Students in English 10 Honors should read *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne and be prepared for a written assessment during the first week of school.

ENGLISH 11 CP

Students in English 11 will read *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight: In Prose and Poetry* and prepare for a written assessment during the first week of school.

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

AP English Language and Composition students should read *Thank You For Arguing* by Jay Heinrichs (you are encouraged to buy a used copy). Students will be expected to complete an assignment utilizing this book at the beginning of the class in August.

AP Language and Composition students should read *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley and a second work of nonfiction of their choice. A list of recommendations and an assignment will be emailed to each student registered for the class at the beginning of the summer.



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ENGLISH 12 CP SENIOR COMPOSITION

Students in Senior Composition should subscribe to the YouTube Channel or Podcast "College Essay Guy" and choose any 5 videos/episodes to watch, covering topics from personal statements to essay ideas to the admissions process. Students will need to be prepared to write a 100-150 word written response per episode (5 total) in MLA format. Essays will need to be submitted into Google Classroom by the end of the first week of school.

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCh3V2VU1UcZEDr6E3ztsFkA>

Podcast link: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLb4nf3EZb-Hq92xa_ADp6eLnCxNqR_s6s

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

AP Literature and Composition students should choose one of the following novels to read: *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison or *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte. An assignment will be emailed to each student registered for the class at the beginning of the summer.

AP EUROPEAN HISTORY

The Prince by Niccolo Machiavelli