

Upper School of Logic and Rhetoric

Summer Reading Assignments 2024



Students in the Upper School of Logic and Rhetoric read one Common book and one English book assigned by grade. Scroll down for the assignments related to each book, including the Common Read. This year most of our Summer reading experiences involve two important elements that are worth highlighting:

READING ALOUD: Various studies abound showing a multitude of advantages to reading aloud. It is a given when children are young, but what about our Logic and Rhetoric students? According to recent articles cited in *The Atlantic*, the BBC, and *The New York Times*, the benefits continue into these years and throughout adulthood. We are asking USLR families to read our Common Read aloud as a family. The idea here is different from individuals listening to an audiobook, as one of the benefits we are after is connection and community. This is an experiment and we will have a call for feedback about the experience in the early fall. ***Please note the assignments below involve three family conversations around the dinner table so students (and families) will need to plan ahead.***

EXPERIENCES: Another new element to this year's summer reading is that each English assignment (for grades 8-12) involves an experience. Students in grade 8 have a choice of books and are asked to visit a local library for their book selection. Students in grades 9-12 are guided through an experience at a location relevant to the assigned text. Students should complete the grade level assignment fully and bring this assignment on the first day of class.

Common Read (grades 7-12): Read aloud *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson and discuss at three family dinners. Fill out the worksheet after these conversations.

Grade 7 English: Read *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* and complete the assignment as outlined by Mrs. Russell.

Grade 8 English: Follow the prompts on the assignment sheet to select your text after a visit to the library. Then have a family member interview you (recorded!) about your text.

Grade 9 English: Read George MacDonald's *Fairy Tales*, visit a ruin, and write a myth.

Grade 10 English: Read *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, visit a wilderness, find a green chapel, and draw a picture.

Grade 11 English: Read *My Antonia* by Willa Cather and visit a farm or homestead, take photos, and write an accompanying poem.

Grade 12 English: Read Calvino's *Invisible Cities*, visit a city, and create your own invisible city.

**CCA students enrolled before August 1st should complete these assignments in full by the first day of classes and bring the assignments with them on the first day. New students enrolled after August 1st will be exempt from the written work but should read as much of the text as they are able.*

USLR Common Read:
Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*

*READ ANY FULL VERSION OF THIS CLASSIC TALE OF ADVENTURE **ALOUD TOGETHER AS A FAMILY**. THEN DISCUSS
COMPASSION, ELOQUENCE, AND DISCERNMENT DURING THREE FAMILY DINNERS.*

Student's name: _____ Grade: _____
(A separate form must be completed for each USLR student)

When did you and your family finish the book? _____

On what dates did you have your dinner discussions?

Dinner Discussion 1: _____ Dinner Discussion 2: _____ Dinner Discussion 3: _____

Part 1: Read *Treasure Island* in its entirety **out loud as a family**. All aspects of this assignment are vital and required. We suggest you finish by late July.

Part 2: On three evenings after you've finished the novel, sit down as a family and discuss the following questions over dinner, jotting down your favorite quotes from those discussions in the blanks below.

Dinner Discussion 1: Compassion

Compassion is "Knowing the value of all people; cultivating a just and flourishing community."
Did Jim's adventures give him a greater sense of compassion? Which aspects? What about his adventures can teach us compassion?

What is your favorite example of compassion from the text:

What was your favorite quote from this discussion?

Who said it? _____

Dinner Discussion 2: Eloquence

Eloquence is “Speaking the truth beautifully and convincingly.” Were there characters in *Treasure Island* who could speak with both of these qualities? Were there characters who could speak with only one? Or none? Did eloquence make any of these characters good or bad?

Who is the most eloquent in the text and why?

What was your favorite quote from this discussion?

Who said it? _____

Dinner Discussion 3: Discernment

Discernment is “Distinguishing the bad from the good and the good from the best.” Were there any moments when Jim was unable to do this? Were there any when he was able to? What made the difference?

What is the best example of discernment from the text?

What was your favorite quote from this discussion?

Who said it? _____

Parent Signature: I certify that my family read *Treasure Island* out loud in its entirety and held these discussions according to instructions.

Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

Date: _____



Grade 8 Summer Reading

Go to a library and find at least three of the following books. Pull them from the shelves:

1. Swallows and Amazons- Arthur Ransome
2. Anne of Green Gables- L.M. Montgomery
3. Swiss Family Robinson- Johann David Wyss
4. All Creatures Great and Small- James Herriot
5. The Prince and the Pauper- Mark Twain
6. Journey to the Center of the Earth- Jules Verne
7. The Complete Father Brown- G. K. Chesterton



Answer the following for each of the three books you pulled from the shelves:

BOOK #1- _____

1. What is your first impression of this book? Why?



2. Read the back cover or inside the book jacket (if there is one). What genre is this work of fiction?



3. Take a picture of yourself (or have someone take it) holding the book and showing your face displaying your initial emotion toward the text.

BOOK #2- _____

1. What is your first impression of this book? Why?



2. Read the back cover or inside the book jacket (if there is one). What genre is this work of fiction?



3. Take a picture of yourself (or have someone take it) holding the book and showing your face displaying your initial emotion toward the text

BOOK #3- _____



1. What is your first impression of this book? Why?
2. Read the back cover or inside the book jacket (if there is one). What genre is this work of fiction?



3. Take a picture of yourself (or have someone take it) holding the book and showing your face displaying your initial emotion toward the text

Now, find a comfy spot in the library and read at least 5 pages of each book.



Which of the books do you want to read for your summer reading text?

Why?

As you read... be sure to note when you come across important passages. Write questions you have, things you notice or even sentences you like. It is recommended that you purchase your own copy of the text so you can write in it, but you can check out the copy from the library while you wait for your copy to arrive!

We recommend keeping a small notebook or page with notes as you read since you will need to be interviewed by a family member after you have finished reading the book. Your interview should be recorded as an audio file. Your photos and audio file need to be uploaded to this google folder: <https://tinyurl.com/ysvm4aab> (You can open the folder and drag them in. Be sure all entries are labeled with your name.)

The interview questions are below:

1. Would you describe yourself as a big reader? Why or why not?
2. What book did you select and why did you select it?
3. Can you give me a short plot summary of the text?
4. Tell me about your favorite part of the book.
5. In your opinion, does this book deserve being called a "classic?" Why or why not?
6. If there was a movie made from the book in 2025, who should play the main characters?
7. Who should read this book? Would you recommend it to me? Why or why not?
8. Feel free to have your family member ask you their own question if they would like...



We will attach your interview to a QR code to be displayed in the hallway, along with your pictures. You'll get a chance to listen to each other's interviews!