



Upper School of Logic & Rhetoric Summer Reading Requirements 2020

The Upper School of Logic and Rhetoric expects students to read one English Reading Book and one Common Reading Book during the summer recess.

ENGLISH SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Logic School English Book & Assignment: For students in rising grades 7-8

Grade 7: *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare (ISBN 978-0547550299)

Assignment: For this book you are to create a Hall of Fame (based on four characters) and several sketches for scenes of the movie version of the book. For the Hall of Fame, choose four characters to sketch and describe in written paragraph form. For the movie, pretend you are the director for a movie version of the book. Choose three scenes to illustrate. **Further instructions available here.**

Grade 8: *Inkheart*, by Cornelia Funke (ISBN 978-0439709101)

Assignment: As you read, collect *at least* 25 quotes about reading and literature. You may enter each quote as a line in a typed chart or present the list of quotes in an artistic fashion. No matter how you choose to catalog your list of quotes, you must include the page number and the quote.

**Logic School English summer reading assignments will be submitted in August through Google Classroom. Training on Google Classroom and submitting work will be a part of the Grade 7 orientation in the fall.*

Rhetoric School English Book & Assignment: For students in rising grades 9-12

Grade 9: *Mythology*, by Edith Hamilton (ISBN 978-0-446-57475-4)

Writing Prompt: What makes someone a “hero”?

Grade 10: *The Fellowship of the Ring*, by J.R.R. Tolkien (ISBN 978-0547928210)**

Writing Prompt: What does true virtue look like?

Grade 11: *An American Childhood*, by Annie Dillard (ISBN 978-0060915186)

Writing Prompt: What separates childhood from adulthood?

Grade 12: *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, by Salman Rushdie (ISBN 978-0140157376)

Writing Prompt: Can stories change anything in the real world?

Assignment:

CCA Students enrolled before August 3rd should complete this assignment in full by the first day of classes, submitting it through Google Classroom (through your English class). New students enrolled after August 3rd will be exempted from the written work.

As you read your assigned text, take note of passages that relate well to your writing prompt. Once you finish, use that evidence to write an 850-900 word essay that answers that prompt. This essay should be in Classical Arrangement and presented in Chicago Style*. It will be graded based on completion and will account for 5% of your overall first-semester grade.

To receive full credit, your essay must:

- Be formatted and presented in Chicago Style*.
- Contain 2-3 quotations which relate to the main question listed above.
- Be in Classical Arrangement*
- Be free of grammar, syntax, and factual errors.
- Be turned in, via Google Classroom, by the first day of classes.

**Rising 9th grade students are not required to follow Classical Arrangement or Chicago Style. These will be skills learned together during the school year.*

***Rising 10th Grade students who complete one additional essay which addresses all three novels in The Lord of the Rings trilogy will be exempt from one memorization assignment of their choice during the academic year.*

COMMON SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Virtue: Humility

WHY A COMMON READING

Starting last year we sought to link our common reading books to one of the seven virtues in our Portrait of a Graduate. Our common reading books this year both speak to the virtue of **humility**, though in different ways. Humility, as defined in our Portrait of a Graduate, is *honesty and peace about one's abilities, frailties, and place in the world.*

It is not a mistake that we have chosen to spend time on this virtue in the fall. Certainly events of the early and late spring have reminded us of our own frailties and our often small place in a strange, and broken, world. While summer reading has historically been a time to kick back and read something "we can't get to during the year" it has the added opportunity this year of being something that could impact us, stay with us, inform our character.

Students are responsible to buy their own copy of the works listed. Announcements will be made in the fall about when students should bring their book and completed assignment to chapel. Advisors will collect and read assignments and the grades will be recorded in your English class. ESL students should note that you need to read the text in English and your book will be checked for annotations.

Logic School Common Reading (required for students in rising grades 7-8)

The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler by John Hendrix (ISBN: 978-1419732652). This graphic novel was the runner-up in this spring's March Madness run by Mrs. Lawrenz. While serving to educate readers of the life of pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer, this reading also brings up questions of what it means to be a Christian, a citizen, and a human in

the midst of injustice. In keeping with the graphic theme, students should keep a timeline of Bonhoeffer's life as they read. This can be organized and depicted in any way, but should put a priority on events in his early life that shaped him later in his life. The timeline should be no bigger than 11 inches by 14 inches and can be handwritten, drawn or typed. Creative ways to present the information, such as illustration, are welcome, but not required. After reading the entire book, students should type a page answering the following questions: "1. How did Dietrich Bonhoeffer's experiences and character inform his actions? 2. What does Dietrich Bonhoeffer's life teach you about humility?" Each student will be instructed how to submit their answers in their Advisory Google Classroom once school is back in session: The answers to these questions should be approximately 1 page total (typed).

Rhetoric School Common Reading (required for students in rising grades 9-12)

Just Mercy (Adapted for Young Adults): A True Story of the Fight for Justice by Bryan

Stevenson (hardcover ISBN: 978-0525580034, paperback ISBN 978-0593177044). Lawyer and

advocate Bryan Stevenson's story speaks not only about issues of injustice but also about humility and compassion. Students should read the book and write a 1-2 page reflection that includes references from the text. (Students in grades 10-12 should use Chicago style, students in ninth grade can reference with text using quotes and page numbers.) Questions to choose from when writing your reflection: What surprised you? What challenged you? How does the book call you to change your words, heart, actions? What questions do you have after reading this book? How does this book inform your understanding of the virtue of humility?

Rhetoric School Common Reading (OPTIONAL for students in rising grades 9-12)

Everything that Rises Must Converge by Flannery O'Connor (OPTIONAL for rising grades 9-12) We believe reading this short story with this virtue of humility in mind can add depth to our discussions in the fall. For extra credit, bring a 1-page typed response to the question: "How does the author of this story use her narrator to address humility?"

[[Link to a PDF of the short story](#)]

OPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Summer Reading Book Group for Rhetoric School Students

As current events have brought issues of race to the forefront of our national dialogue, many of us have been prompted to enter a time of personal reflection and to seek better understanding of how systematic racism in our country has deeply affected so many. To help us discuss and understand *Just Mercy* we have several faculty members that would like to lead a summer book group for Rhetoric School students interested in going deeper into these issues.

Mr Wegrzyn & Mr. Curtis will facilitate the conversation via Zoom and *possibly* in-person, outdoor (socially distanced) gatherings. We will meet on Tuesdays beginning July 7th until August 18th. **Please sign up by Tuesday, June 30th for planning purposes.**

Here is how to participate:

- 1) Pray about how God might use a group like this to shape your life this summer.
- 2) Send an e-mail to [Mr. Wegrzyn](#) expressing your interest by Tuesday June 30th. Be sure to explain any conflicts you may have.

- 3) Say whether you would prefer to meet Late morning (10:30-11:30 am), Afternoon (2:00-3:00 pm) or Evening (8:00-9:00 pm).
- 4) Order the book (be sure to get the “Adapted for Young Adults” version).
- 5) Join our meetings on Zoom and in person (if possible).

While the summer book conversations will be students only, we’d love to encourage parents to read along and discuss these important issues at home as well.