

# Summer Reading

## High School



### Introduction, or Why must I do this?

Summer reading.

Every year, students the world-over are made to undertake their annual pilgrimage to the local library, book faire, or online bookseller. “Why, oh why, must we do this?” you may ask. In short, it’s because you become legitimately and measurably dumber if you don’t read over the summer.

As a school we value and respect your intellect yet know that you may need some encouragement to keep up the good fight. Thankfully, our summer reading experts have devised an assignment which will help keep you rightly motivated to do what you already know deep-down is right, good, and beneficial to your intellectual growth.

You’re welcome.



### Accessing the Online Forum or, “Where do I post my assignments?”

Go to: <https://fan.school/spaces>

- Use the Google Sign-in and your RSCA.school email address.
- **First Time Only:** Click the blue << **Join** >> button and enter code **urn4g9**
- Bookmark or save to desktop for future access.
- Registration code is for **Students Only**.
- Parents may use this link to read, but not post. Thank you.

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### Grading, or What must I do to pass?

#### **Choose your book**

Select your book from the list and register your choice with your English teacher.

#### **Read your book & complete your posts on time**

We encourage you to read and post over several weeks. This will prevent burnout and encourage your best work. Summer Reading posts and responses are due BEFORE the first day of school. Points will be subtracted for late posts. All posts are automatically time/date stamped.

#### **Grading**

Each prompt/post/submission will be graded separately. Remember you are submitting High School level work and must meet that standard to be considered passing. Grades are recorded in your English class and accounts for approximately 5% of your Fall semester average.

#### **Grade penalties**

Points will be subtracted for incomplete, missing, or substandard posts; for absurd or inconsiderate responses; and for submissions which have not been adequately proofread.

#### **Do your own work**

Be advised that our digital plagiarism-checker will be scanning all submissions automatically, so be sure the work you post is your own. See the Student-Parent Handbook for specific penalties.

#### **Who must do the Summer Reading assignment?**

Summer Reading is a requirement for ALL students enrolled in an RSCA English class for the fall semester grades 9-12. This includes new students enrolling for the first time and those whose schedules are changed.

#### **Can I exempt?**

Students who are not enrolled in *any* RSCA English class are not required to complete the Summer Reading. Dual Enrollment classes are not considered RSCA classes. However, students enrolled in BOTH a Dual Enrollment course AND an RSCA English course must complete the Summer Reading as part of their RSCA English course.

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### Posts, or What do I write?

#### Post 1 – Takeaways from the opening chapters

Share FIVE first impressions from the opening of your book. Include a picture of your book cover. Do not summarize. Your takeaways must be personal points of interaction between you and the text. See the "Sample Article" in the forum for a model post. (250-500 words)

#### Post 2 – Morals and lessons

Identify and explain TWO lessons, values, or principles you think the author is trying to demonstrate about people or life in general. Explain how these are being developed throughout the story. Cite textual evidence to support your claims. Include a picture. (250-500 words)

#### Post 3 – Cross-cultural connections

Pick your favorite scene from the book. Then find THREE songs, paintings, or other expressions of art that fit the mood of that scene. Identify the work/artist/relevant source links. Include a picture. Explain why/how each artistic connection point fits the scene. Cite specific textual evidence (i.e. quotes) that show why you choose each song or painting, etc. to fit the mood. (250-500 words)

#### Post 4 – Podcast preview

Find and listen to a single podcast episode (7+ minutes in length) interacting with the book you're reading. Share TWO takeaways from the podcast that has (or could) influence your interpretation or enjoyment of the book. Be sure to comment on the podcast itself, indicating whether you agree (or not) with the podcast's analysis, and why. Include the link so others can read/view the podcast, relevant links and include a picture. (250-500 words)

#### Post 5 – Post-Reading reflection

Pretend you are the protagonist of your story and you come up against the same conflict. How would *you* overcome the conflict? Based on your own life experiences, how might your story be different? Write about it. Non-fiction readers may adapt this prompt to better fit their book. Include a picture. (250-500 words)

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#### Responses – Reply to FIVE to student articles

Select and read other student's articles. For each, compose a one-paragraph "response." Responses should be **thoughtful, reflective, and respectful** while prompting further discussion, critical thinking, and questioning. Posting an "I agree" or "good ideas" will not be considered a response. Support statements with examples, experiences, or references. (Each response post should be within a range of 75-150 words.)

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### Pre-Approved Booklist or What books can I read?

*Laddie: A True Blue Story* by Gene Stratton-Porter

*The Call of the Wild* by Jack London

*Around the World in 80 Days* by Jules Verne

*A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park

*Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson

*Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan

*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott

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*Jo's Boys* by Louisa May Alcott

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens)

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens)

*The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan

*The Story of the Treasure Seekers* by E. Nesbit

*Swiss Family Robinson* by Johann Wyss

*Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson

*My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George

*The Hobbit* by J. R. R. Tolkien

*The Fellowship of the Ring* by J. R. R. Tolkien

*The Two Towers* by J. R. R. Tolkien

*The Return of the King* by J. R. R. Tolkien

*Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls

*The Innocence of Father Brown* by G. K. Chesterton

*Ivanhoe* by Sir Walter Scott

*David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens

*The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

*Through Gates of Splendor* by Elisabeth Elliot

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*Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe

*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte

*Lorna Doone* by R. D. Blackmore

*The Deerslayer* by James Fenimore Cooper

*The Last of the Mohicans* by James Fenimore Cooper

*The Space Trilogy* (any book from) by C.S. Lewis

*The Scarlet Pimpernel* by Baroness Emmuska Orczy

*Hinds' Feet on High Places* by Hannah Hurnard

*Ben Hur: A Tale of Christ* by Lew Wallace

*Don Quixote*, by Miguel de Cervantes

*The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis

*The Martian Chronicles* by Ray Bradbury

*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

*Howard Pyle: Robin Hood*

*The Nine Tailors* (The Lord Peter Wimsey Mysteries Book 11) by Dorothy Sayers

*The Dragon and the Raven – In the Days of King Alfred and the Viking Invasion* by G.A. Henty

*The Cat of Bubastes – A Tale of Ancient Egypt* by G.A. Henty

*Abortion: A Rational Look at An Emotional Issue* by R.C. Sproul

*Before You Meet Prince Charming: A Guide to Radiant Purity* by Sarah Mally

*A Basket of Flowers* by Christoph Von Schmid

*Boyhood and Beyond* by Bob Schultz

*Sir Malcolm and the Missing Prince* by Sidney Baldwin

*Do Hard Things: A Teenage Rebellion Against Low Expectations* by Alex & Brett Harris

*Kingdom's Dawn Series* (any book from) by Chuck Black

*Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage* by Alfred Lansing

*Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* by Annie Dillard



### Contact Info

For assistance, email Mr. Perkins anytime at [rperkins@rsca.info](mailto:rperkins@rsca.info).

*During the summer emails are typically answered within 48 hours.*