

Upper School Summer Reading and Assignments

Students and Parents of Students,

As you enjoy your summer break, it is our hope that your Christian faith will grow and that you will find value in reading the books selected for your grade (or your child's grade). The writing response assignments are all geared toward application—speaking into how key characters, themes, and motifs are relatable to one's own life. It is our goal to make these assignments meaningful and not “busy work.” Reading good literature promotes understanding about humanity by living vicariously through a character's struggles and triumphs. We are encouraging parents to join their child in the summer reading assignments. The books we selected will promote lively conversations within the family. Classical Christian education is a lifestyle not just a school choice. It's a privilege to walk alongside of you in your pursuit of a classical Christian lifestyle.

The reading and writing assignments are due on the first day of school and will receive a grade. Papers should be written neatly in cursive or typed. Classes will also discuss each literary piece the first week of class with the possibility of quizzes and tests.

The PCA Upper School summer office hours are Monday–Thursday from 9am-noon. Stop in to visit if your schedule allows.

Happy Summer Reading,
The Upper School Faculty

Students entering into 7th grade:

1. Read *The Horse and His Boy* by C.S. Lewis
ISBN-13: 978-0064471060 (other versions from box sets are fine)
 - a. Select one character and write a one paragraph description of the character: Shasta, Bree, Aravis, Hwin, Prince Corin, King Edmund, Queen Susan, King Lune, Arsheesh, The Hermit, Aslan
 - b. Describe in one paragraph why you selected the character that you picked to write about.
 - c. As Shasta journeys from his fisherman's home to Anvard he learns the value of his own self-worth and how to earn the respect of others. In one paragraph, describe his journey of discovery.
 - d. In one paragraph describe your own journey of discovery about self-worth and how you earn the respect of other.

2. Read *The Golden Goblet* by Eloise McGraw (Sent home with students)
ISBN-13: 978-0140303353
 - a. Select one of the key themes in the book (abuse and neglect or friendship) and summarize in one paragraph three events that support the theme.

- b. In one paragraph, describe how abuse or neglect has impacted you or someone you know or describe how friendship has helped you through a difficult time

Students entering into 8th grade:

1. Read *The Last Battle* by C.S. Lewis
ISBN-13: 978-0064471084 (other versions from box sets are fine)
 - a. In two paragraphs describe a character that is deceived and a character that deceives another.
 - b. Describe in two paragraphs biblical examples dealing with the sin of deception.
2. Read *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* by Washington Irving
ISBN-13: 978-1530176519

Write a one-page essay comparing and contrasting Ichabod Crane and Abraham Van Brunt's pursuit of Katrina Van Tassel—one for personal gain and one for true love. Describe how you see these same motives in the behavior of teens today.

Students entering into 9th grade:

1. Select a biography of your choice and write a three-paragraph essay describing the person you read about, why you selected his/her biography, and what character traits you discovered about the person that relate to your personality, beliefs, attitude, or goals.
2. Read *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Free e-book)
bearsfc.tistory.com/attachment/cfile26.uf@213C214854ADB05A0CCBE3.pdf
Write a one-page essay about Christian community including a definition of Christian community, describing how you are involved in Christian community and how being a part of Christian community has impacted your life.

Students entering into 10th grade:

1. Select a biography of your choice and write a three-paragraph essay describing the person you read about, why you selected his/her biography, and what character traits you discovered about the person that relate to your personality, beliefs, attitude, or goals.
2. Read *The Pilgrim's Progress (both parts)* by John Bunyan (copies available at PCA to be checked out).
ISBN-13: 978-1622452392

Write a two-page essay comparing and contrasting the journeys of Christian and Christiana.

Students entering into 11th grade:

1. Select a biography of your choice and write a five-paragraph essay describing the person you read about, why you selected his/her biography, and what character traits you discovered about the person that relate to your personality, beliefs, attitude, or goals.
2. Read *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne (Free e-book)
<http://www.literatureproject.com/scarlet-letter/>
 - a. Write a two-paragraph essay comparing and contrasting the characters of Rev. Dimmesdale and Hester focusing on the effects of their sin and resulting consequences.
 - b. Write two-page essay describing a biblical view of sin, confession, and redemption including any personal application you desire to share.

Students entering into 12th grade:

1. Read your two approved research books for Senior Thesis. Be prepared to present an oral presentation on the research found.
2. Read *On Writing Well* by William Zinsser.
ISBN-13: 978-0060891541
Write a six-paragraph essay summarizing the principles, methods, forms, and attitudes of writing nonfiction.