

Columbia High School Summer Reading Guidelines

Purpose

The Summer Reading Program is intended to promote thoughtful reading over the summer. The program is founded in two beliefs: first, reading is the most important skill that students learn in school; and second, growth in reading requires constant practice.

Directions

All students will read **two books** over the summer and complete an assignment for each book. **One book is required and one book is self-selected.**

The required books are:

12th grade- **All Quiet on the Western Front** by Erich Maria Remarque

Paul Baumer enlisted with his classmates in the German army of World War I. Youthful and enthusiastic, they become soldiers. But despite what they have learned, they break into pieces under the first bombardment in the trenches. And as horrible war plods on year after year, Paul holds fast to a single vow: to fight against the principles of hate that meaninglessly pits young men of the same generation but different uniforms against each other--if only he can come out of the war alive. www.amazon.com

11th grade- **The Red Badge of Courage** by Stephen Crane

Henry Fleming is in many ways an every-soldier: he joins the army out of patriotism and to prove his manhood; when the time comes to fight he doubts himself and runs away out of fear. It is at this point Henry comes to the crossroads of his young life: instead of completely deserting his unit he returns to his regiment and the battlefield out of a sense of duty and also out of shame and anger at himself. Once he returns he performs heroically on the battlefield. www.amazon.com

10th grade- **The Picture of Dorian Gray** by Oscar Wilde

After Basil Hallward paints a beautiful, young man's portrait, his subject's frivolous wish that the picture change and he remain the same comes true. Dorian Gray's picture grows aged and corrupt while he continues to appear fresh and innocent. www.amazon.com

9th grade- **The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman** by Ernest J. Gaines

Set in rural southern Louisiana, the novel spans 100 years of American history--from the early 1860s to the onset of the civil rights movement in the 1960s--in following the life of the elderly Jane Pittman, who witnessed those years. www.amazon.com

Self-selected books are chosen by the student and should be age appropriate and substantial in length. It is recommended that the student check the Accelerated Reader list, so that it may be used for testing points at the beginning of the school year.

All students must complete a Reading Response Log for both books. This log must be neatly written in the student's handwriting using college ruled paper. The Log will consist of **4 entries for each book (a total of 8 together)**. Each entry should have the following information:

Date

Title of book

Time Read

Page ___ to page ___

What you write in the log is what you want to remember about the reading. Thoughts, reactions, interpretations, and questions about what you are reading should be included. If you are not sure what to write, the following suggestions might get you started.

- ❖ Quote a part of the book that you think is good writing. What did you like about the quote? What makes you feel that this is good writing?
- ❖ What connections are there between this book and your life? Does it remind you of anything?
- ❖ How does this book make you feel? Explain your reaction.
- ❖ What questions do you have? What confuses you or what do you not understand?
- ❖ What was the best part of the book? Why? What was the worst part? Why?
- ❖ In what ways are you like any of the characters? Explain. Do any of the characters remind you of people you know? Explain. What character would you like to be in the book? Why?
- ❖ Describe the setting of the book and tell why it is important to the story. Would the story have been different if it was set somewhere else?
- ❖ Explain the conflict in the story and how it is resolved.
- ❖ What was the theme of the book? What lesson was it trying to teach you? Explain.

Grading

8 entries/ 4 full pages= 100

/ 3 full pages= 90

/ 2 full pages= 80

/ 1 full page= 70

There will be a deduction of 10 points per entry for each entry less than 8.

Quality of responses and neatness will be considered and deducted accordingly.

Reading Response Logs will be due ONE WEEK AFTER THE FIRST DAY of school and will count 100 points.

Additionally, a test on the required book will be given. This test will count 200 points.