

Summer Reading Assignment: Grades 9 & 10
Portersville Christian School
Summer 2026

“Reading is an exercise in empathy; an exercise in walking in someone else’s shoes for a while.”
-Malone Blackman

Goal: It’s important to be a lifelong reader. Reading helps you grow in many ways, including becoming a better writer. We want to encourage you to keep reading through the summer with books you may not have considered reading before and ones that you just can’t put down.

How it works: Select **one book from the list on the accompanying page and one book of your choice** (that does not have to be on the list) to read this summer. When you have finished reading both, please select one book to use to complete the attached reading reflection. Also complete the form below. Submit both to your English teacher during the first week of school.

A Note to Parents: *Use discretion when helping your child select their summer reading. All families have different levels of comfortability when it comes to certain subject matter. Please review your child’s book selections and contact your child’s teacher with any questions or concerns.*

*Audio books are acceptable for use.

Summer Reading Selections

Student Name: _____

Entering Grade: _____

List Selection:

Independent Choice Selection:

Parent Signature: _____

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Classic Fiction

- *Wuthering Heights*, by Emily Bronte
- *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas
- *The Robe* by Lloyd Douglas
- *The Yearling* by Marjorie Rawlings
- *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
- *The Prince and the Pauper* by Mark Twain

Christian Non-Fiction

- *Abolition of Man* by C.S. Lewis
- *Love Does* by Bob Goff
- *Do Hard Things: A Teenage Rebellion Against Low Expectations* by Alex and Brett Harris
- *Speak Love: Making Your Words Matter* by Annie F. Downs
- *Undaunted* by Christine Caine
- *Crazy Love* by Francis Chan

Historical Fiction

- *Across Five Aprils* by Irene Hunt
- *The Call of the Canyon* by Zane Grey
- *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane
- *Night* by Elie Wiesel
- *Maisie Dobbs* by Jacqueline Winspear
- *On Blood Road* by Steve Watkins
- *The Nazi Hunters* by Neal Bascomb

Realistic Fiction

- *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger
- *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper

Fantasy

- *Out of the Silent Planet* by C.S. Lewis
- *The Lord of the Rings* Trilogy by JRR Tolkien
- *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift
- *The Time Machine* by H.G. Wells
- *Watership Down* by Richard Adams
- *The Once and Future King* by T.H. White

Adventure: Survival/Mystery/Dystopian

- *Call It Courage* by Armstrong Sperry
- *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London
- *White Fang* by Jack London
- *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie
- *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins

Sports

- *Shaken* by Tim Tebow
- *42 Faith* by Ed Henry
- *The Closer: My Story* by Mariano Rivera
- *The Mamba Mentality* by Kobe Bryant
- *Relentless Spirit* by Missy Franklin
- *Win in the Dark* by Joshua Medcalf

Biography/Memoir

- *Surprised by Joy* by C.S. Lewis
- *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom
- *Everything Sad is Untrue* by Daniel Nayeri
- *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson
- *Through Gates of Splendor* by Elisabeth Elliot
- *Hiding in the Light: Why I Risked Everything to Leave Islam and Follow Jesus* by Rifqa Bary
- *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb
- *Same Kind of Different as Me* by Ron Hall and Denver Moore

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Directions: Respond to each of the first two questions thoughtfully and with complete sentences. Please write a minimum of one paragraph for each response (5-7 sentences). The third is extra credit.

Responses should be typed in Times New Roman, 12 point font, and be printed out by the first day of school. Be sure to include your name, the title of the book, and the author's name on each response.

Reading Response Questions:

1. Did you enjoy the book? What worked or what didn't work in your opinion? Would you recommend the book to someone else? Why or why not? Explain your reasoning.
2. Which character did you relate most to and why? Describe using character traits and events.
3. (Bonus) Discuss how this book positively or negatively expresses virtuous ways of living based on a biblical model of good character. Can you make any connections between the Bible and the themes, content, or action of this book? If so, where? Be specific.

Please attach the parent/guardian acknowledgment section that includes your parent's signature to your typed reflection and analysis.

The answers you provide are designed to show thoughtful engagement with the book on your part. You will not be graded on correctness, but on how well you show that you have read and thought, analyzed, and reflected on the text. Any plagiarism or use of AI technology to complete this assignment will result in a 0.