



**2015**

**Summer Reading Program**

**CCHS**

**CAPITAL CHRISTIAN  
HIGH SCHOOL**

# CCHS 2015 Summer Reading Program

CCHS Students and Families,

The summer reading program is open to all students: it is **required** for students who are taking advanced English classes next year, and it is an extra credit assignment for those who will be taking a regular English class (the amount of extra credit will be determined by each teacher).

Please visit the English department website for the summer reading packet: [www.ccsengl.weebly.com](http://www.ccsengl.weebly.com).

## How to Participate in the Summer Reading Program:

- 1) Choose a group of books from the list provided (e.g. “Childhood Classics: Fantastic Journeys”). This should be a **new** group, not one you’ve already done.
- 2) Read **all** of the books in that category (e.g. *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*, *Peter Pan*, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*).
- 3) Complete a reading record card for each book.
- 4) Type a 500 word essay (using MLA format). **Prompt:** Choose your favorite book from the summer reading and discuss why you liked it. Please provide specific examples of what you liked, but **avoid plot summary**. Finish your essay with a paragraph or two that convinces someone who hasn’t read the book that it is a *must read*.
- 5) Save a copy of your essay on your computer because you will be asked to submit it to Turnitin during the first week of school.
- 6) **Advanced Students:** Turn in your reading cards and essay to the front office by **August 3, 2014**.
- 7) **Regular Students:** Turn in your reading cards and essay to your English teacher on the first day of school.

We also ask that you **NOT** use study aids, such as Sparknotes, but that you give the literature a chance to unfold, on its own merit, before your eyes. Sparknotes may provide you with a tidy summary of a novel or a play, but it is incapable of recreating the sheer beauty and marvel that is language. Do not cheat yourself of the honest experience of reading a book for the first time. We hope that you truly enjoy this summer’s reading experience.

Yours,

*Scott M. Foran*

English Department Chair

# CCHS 2015 Summer Reading Program

## READING RECORD CARD

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Grade (in 2014-2015): \_\_\_\_\_  Regular  Advanced/Honors  AP

1) Thematic Group (e.g. Historical Curiosities): \_\_\_\_\_

2) Title of Book (e.g. *Clara's Grand Tour*): \_\_\_\_\_

3) Author (e.g. Glynis Ridley): \_\_\_\_\_

4) This book was:  easy to read.  a little difficult to read.  very difficult to read.

5) Would you recommend this book to anyone?

Are you kidding? This is the worst thing I've ever read!

Maybe—this book wasn't too bad.

Absolutely! I loved this book.

6) Why did you answer question #5 the way you did? Please give one or two specific examples.

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7) What three words best describe this book?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, read this book in its entirety. \_\_\_\_\_  
(print student name) (student signature)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, verify that my student read this book in its entirety.  
(print parent/guardian name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(parent/guardian signature)

# CCHS 2015 Summer Reading Program

## 1) CHILDHOOD CLASSICS: FANTASTIC JOURNEYS (Fiction)

- *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll
- *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis
- *Peter Pan* by J.M. Barrie
- *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum

These wonderful childhood classics are known to modern audiences through popular film adaptations, yet it is important for us to explore these tales in their original forms if we are to fully appreciate their role in contemporary culture. Join a wide-ranging cast of characters as they travel through magical lands and learn the lessons we must all embrace if we are to successfully transition into the often confusing world of adults.

## 2) CHILDHOOD CLASSICS: ANIMAL TALES (Fiction)

- *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White
- *The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling
- *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame
- *Winnie the Pooh* by A.A. Milne

These children's classics are also more commonly known to modern audiences through film adaptations. However, it is high time that we experience these stories as originally intended. These novels feature marvelous worlds of animal life (both animated and stuffed), but in such a way that readers actually find themselves exploring what it means to be human.

## 3) DYSTOPIA (Fiction)

- *1984* by George Orwell
- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
- *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding
- *The Time Machine* by H.G. Wells

Dystopian literature is a tradition that explores societies that are supposed to be utopic, but that suddenly become terrifying for the protagonists. These novels demonstrate the disillusionment and anxiety of the twentieth century and serve as a clear contrast to the utopian concept of earlier centuries.

# CCHS 2015 Summer Reading Program

## 4) ISLAND ADVENTURES (Fiction)

- *The Island of Dr. Moreau* by H.G. Wells
- *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe
- *The Swiss Family Robinson* by Johann Wyss
- *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson

Islands have had a long literary tradition. They often serve as an elaborate test of a character's fortitude, or they may symbolically contain an isolated cross-section of society that allows the author to comment on the ills and fate of the human race.

## 5) JANE AUSTEN (Fiction)

- *Emma* by Jane Austen
- *Persuasion* by Jane Austen
- *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
- *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen

Jane Austen's beloved commentary on British society of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries has enchanted generations of readers and inspired a number of period film adaptations. In spite of the fact that her novels were written well over two hundred years ago, they continue to speak to modern audiences about the universal experience of human relationships.

## 6) MONSTERS IN BRITISH LITERATURE (Fiction)

- *Dracula* by Bram Stoker
- *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- *The Invisible Man* by H.G. Wells
- *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson

The monsters of British literature have long served as a reminder of our fear of the unknown and have also been used to explore the nature of good and evil. These creatures have become a sort of literary mirror held up for society's much needed self-examination, providing an opportunity of identifying the hidden horrors of the human soul.

# CCHS 2015 Summer Reading Program

## 7) DISCOVERIES (Non-Fiction)

- *Edison's Eve* by Gaby Wood
- *Everything and More: A Compact History of Infinity* by David Foster Wallace
- *Longitude* by Dava Sobel
- *Tesla: Man Out of Time* by Margaret Cheney

Explore the world of scientific and technological discovery as you follow the historical development of automatons, delve into the mathematical theory of infinity, learn about the invention of the chronometer, and wonder along at the almost magical experiments of Edison's greatest rival, Nikola Tesla.

## 8) MARK TWAIN (Fiction)

- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
- *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* by Mark Twain
- *The Mysterious Stranger* by Mark Twain
- *Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain

Enjoy these titles by American humorist, Mark Twain. *Tom Sawyer* and *Huckleberry Finn* provide some of Twain's keenest observations about the antebellum South, and *A Connecticut Yankee*, although exemplifying classic Twain wit, is a departure from the author's usual fare, in that he transports the protagonist to Camelot. *The Mysterious Stranger*, possibly the most unique of Twain's novels, philosophically explores the nature and purpose of human existence.

## 9) POET'S CORNER (Poetry)

- *Delights and Shadows* by Ted Kooser
- *The Road Not Taken and Other Poems* by Robert Frost
- *Selected Poems* by Emily Dickinson
- *The Trouble With Poetry: And Other Poems* by Billy Collins

Poetry is a genre that many find challenging; however, these titles should prove interesting for even the most anti-poetical of readers. Two canonical American poets, Dickinson and Frost, are paired off against contemporary poet laureates, Collins and Kooser.

# CCHS 2015 Summer Reading Program

## 10) HISTORICAL CURIOSITIES (Non-Fiction)

- *Clara's Grand Tour* by Glynis Ridley
- *Descartes' Bones* by Russell Shorto
- *How the Irish Saved Civilization* by Thomas Cahill
- *Tulipomania* by Mike Dash

These titles will challenge the assumption that history is a boring subject. Follow Clara, an Indian rhinoceros, as she is transported across eighteenth century Europe long before railways and modern roads, then explore the age-old conflict between faith and reason through the life and skeleton of philosopher Rene Descartes. Find out how Irish monks were able to preserve knowledge and history through the darkness brought on by barbarian invasions, and watch seventeenth century European markets crash after over-speculating on a rather unusual investment: the tulip bulb.

## 11) C.S. LEWIS: NARNIA (Fiction)

- *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis

Enjoy the much beloved fantasy classics by C.S. Lewis, *The Chronicles of Narnia*. If your only experience with Lewis is one of the recent film adaptations of his novels, then you are in for a real treat. Be prepared for an amazing world of fantasy and adventure that provides a rather unique allegory of the Gospel story.

## 12) C.S. LEWIS: THEOLOGY (Non-Fiction/Fiction)

- *God in the Dock* by C.S. Lewis
- *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis
- *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis

C.S. Lewis is probably best known to modern readers for *The Chronicles of Narnia*. However, in addition to writing tales of fantasy, Lewis also penned many great theological and apologetic works. *The Screwtape Letters* is a *devilishly* unique epistolary novel that creatively explores the methods used by Satan and his minions to tempt and distract Christians. *Mere Christianity* and *God in the Dock* are non-fiction texts in which Lewis presents the most basic truths of the Christian faith.

# CCHS 2015 Summer Reading Program

## 13) MADNESS (Fiction/Drama)

- *Diary of a Madman* by Nikolai Gogol
- *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes
- *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare

As a theme, madness has a long and illustrious literary history. Begin with the self-envisioned knight errant, Don Quixote, as he tilts at windmills and challenges our perception of reality. Then let the immortal bard take you to the very brink of madness along with his most famous tragic hero, Hamlet. Then join a simple Russian civil servant who suddenly begins suffering the ravages of insanity. With this collection, you can expect a summer reading like no other.

## 14) THE RUSSIANS (Fiction)

- *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky
- *The Death of Ivan Illyich* by Leo Tolstoy
- *Fathers and Sons* by Ivan Turgenev
- *The Overcoat and Other Stories* by Nilolai Gogol

Get ready to explore the complex richness of Russian literature as you read titles by four literary giants. These stories wrestle with the psychological and philosophical crises of the human condition in unique and often surprising ways, from the embittered and desperate loneliness of Akaky the civil servant to the tortured conscience of the murderer, Raskolnikov.

## 15) BILDUNGSROMAN (Fiction)

- *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger
- *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding
- *Peter Camenzind* by Hermann Hesse
- *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane

The Germans coined a term, *bildungsroman*, to characterize a particular type of novel that became popular during the eighteenth century. This term, which means “coming of age,” applies to stories that feature a protagonist who is making the difficult and complex transition from childhood to adulthood. These stories carry on this tradition and are classic examples of the maturation process, the universal struggle for independence that we all must face.



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## 16) DOPPELGÄNGERS (Fiction)

- *The Double* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky
- *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde
- *The Secret Sharer* by Joseph Conrad
- *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson

Another German literary tradition, the doppelgänger (or “double-goer”), has become an important part of our modern literary consciousness. Although use of the doppelgänger began as an element of folklore, it quickly became the purview of authors who desired to explore the psychological terrain of the human experience. These stories feature protagonists who must confront physical manifestations of their own psyches as they struggle to understand themselves and their place in the world.

## 17) HAPPY ENDINGS (Fiction/Drama)

- *Emma* by Jane Austen
- *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde
- *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* by William Shakespeare
- *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw

One complaint that many people have about literature is that there are never any happy endings. However, here are four titles that challenge this perception. Each one of these stories is part of the literary canon and has a happy ending. This grouping is the perfect choice for the student who doesn’t want to read anything too serious over the summer months.

## 18) CONSPIRACY, WAR, ANARCHY (Fiction)

- *1984* by George Orwell
- *The Man Who Was Thursday* by G.K. Chesterton
- *The Secret Agent* by Joseph Conrad
- *Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut

These titles explore the dangers of anarchy, a genuine fear of Europeans at the dawn of the twentieth century, as well as the sheer insanity that is war. The protagonists of these four novels must struggle to make sense of man’s inhumanity toward man, while somehow maintaining a tenuous grip on their own sense of reality and purpose.

# CCHS 2015 Summer Reading Program

## 19) FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT (Non-Fiction)

- *Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser
- *The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan
- *Our Stolen Future* by Theo Colborn, Dianne Dumanoski, and John Peterson Myers
- *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson

If you're looking for something a little different to read this summer and would also like to make yourself more socially conscious, try this collection of titles that focuses on two important aspects of our world: food and the environment. Start with Schlosser's exposé of the fast food industry, then join Michael Pollan as he wrestles with the dilemma faced by consumers every time they set foot in the grocery store. Finish with two books that explore the startling and unexpected effects of the petrochemical industry: Rachel Carson's revolutionary *Silent Spring*, which served as a catalyst for the environmental movement, and a text that many consider the follow-up to Carson, *Our Stolen Future*.

## 20) TOLKIEN: TRILOGY (Fiction)

- *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

Most of us have seen the stunning *Lord of the Rings* films, but now is your chance to read the novels upon which they are based. Allow yourself to be swept away to Middle Earth and into the midst of the epic battle between good and evil that overwhelms its inhabitants.

## 21) TOLKIEN: HOBBITS & MORE (Fiction)

- *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien
- *Letters from Father Christmas* by J.R.R. Tolkien
- *Roverandom* by J.R.R. Tolkien
- *The Smith of Wootton Major and Farmer Giles of Ham* by J.R.R. Tolkien

Enjoy reading *The Hobbit*, the enchanting prequel to the *Ring* trilogy, as well as some of the lesser known writings of Tolkien. As with anything penned by Tolkien, prepare to be swept away to worlds of fantasy that are steeped in the ancient traditions of folklore and mythology.

# CCHS 2015 Summer Reading Program

## 22) SHAKESPEARE (Non-Fiction/Drama)

- *Will of the World* by Stephen Greenblatt
- One Shakespeare Comedy
- One Shakespeare Tragedy

Start your Shakespearean tour with the acclaimed biography by Harvard professor and Pulitzer Prize winner, Stephen Greenblatt. After learning more about the Bard, select one comedy and one tragedy to read and find out why Shakespeare is still considered the greatest author of all time.

## 23) FRANÇAIS UN (Drama/Fiction)

- *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmond Rostand
- *Phantom of the Opera* by Gaston Leroux
- *Red and Black* by Stendhal

Explore some of the classics of French literature, including Rostand's tragicomic play in which the long-nosed swordsman, Cyrano de Bergerac, falls in love with a beautiful woman who seems beyond his reach. Follow this with Stendhal's satirical exploration of post-Napoleonic French society, *Red and Black*, and *Phantom of the Opera*, the novel upon which Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical is based.

## 24) FRANÇAIS DEUX (Fiction)

- *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas (unabridged edition)

One of the more popular of French novelists is Alexandre Dumas, and, if you would like a challenge this summer, read an unabridged edition of *The Count of Monte Cristo*. If you've seen the film version, you know it is a story of revenge and redemption; however, the film only covers about 200 pages of the 1,200 page novel. Not surprisingly, much of the original story is left out, including some of the most exciting parts.

# CCHS 2015 Summer Reading Program

## 25) SATIRE (Fiction)

- *Animal Farm* by George Orwell
- *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift
- *Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen
- *Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut

Satire is a genre of literature that uses humor to confront social ills. Start with the grandfather of satire, Jonathan Swift, as he targets gullible 18<sup>th</sup> century readers with the unbelievable accounts of the traveler, Lemuel Gulliver. After this, plan on enjoying the subtle, yet caustic wit of Jane Austen as she comments on the British gentry and parodies the Gothic novel in *Northanger Abbey*. Round out your satiric experience with two 20<sup>th</sup> century classics, Orwell's *Animal Farm*, an allegory against totalitarianism, and Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse-Five*, the WWII-era anti-war novel.

## 26) WORLD HISTORY (Non-Fiction)

- *Chocolate: A Global History* by Sarah Moss and Alexander Badenoch
- *Cod: A Biography of the Fish that Changed the World* by Mark Kurlansky
- *Salt: A World History* by Mark Kurlansky
- *Uncommon Grounds: The History of Coffee and How It Transformed Our World* by Mark Pendergrast

Join three authors as they evaluate the seemingly abstract development of human history in terms of the very specific—in this case: chocolate, cod, salt, and coffee. The world would be a very different place if cultures (past and present) had chosen to ignore these particular commodities—find out how they have impacted and created the world in which we live.

## 27) MYTHOLOGY (Fiction)

- *Hammer of Thor: Norse Mythology and Legends* by H.A. Guerber
- *Myths of the Ancient Greeks* by Richard P. Martin
- *Tales of Ancient Egypt* by Roger Lancelyn Green

Western civilization has been greatly influenced by the mythological traditions of the Greeks, Romans, Egyptians, and Norsemen. In fact, it is difficult to fully understand or appreciate literature, art, or music without knowing at least the basic stories from these ancient cultures. These collections will serve as background reading and will help students in their classes at CCS and beyond.