

May 2018

Dear Students and Parents:

The Briarwood Middle-Upper School requires that all students read **TWO BOOKS** and **COMPLETE** an **ASSIGNMENT FOR EACH OF THOSE BOOKS OVER THE SUMMER**. Specific information for this assignment from your grade-level English teacher is contained in this packet, which will be distributed to students through English classes and emailed to parents.

As you help your student select books, please consider his/ her comprehension test scores as well as his/her interests, age, and maturity level. Also, remember that forcing your son or daughter to read material that is too challenging will create frustration, an experience that is counter-productive to learning to read and to enjoying reading.

All the books on the reading list should be available at local bookstores, libraries, or online through *Learning Ally*. *Learning Ally* information is attached to this letter. If your student takes advantage of audio editions of books on the list, encourage him/her to follow along with a script copy, again available on *Learning Ally*, in order to mesh auditory and visual skills and enhance comprehension, fluency, and decoding skills.

If your student wishes to read additional books this summer, you may wish to consult the nationally recognized HAISLN web site for recommendations and appropriateness.

ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASSES IN AUGUST, EACH STUDENT WILL TURN IN THE WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS DEMONSTRATING THAT HE/SHE HAS COMPLETED THE READING REQUIREMENT.

In fairness to all students, **there will be no extension of time on this assignment, and your student's grade for the first quarter will decrease by 10% if he/she does not have the assignment completed and turned in on the first day of school. Our goal is always is to help your student become a fluent, sophisticated, *ready* reader.**

Please email me if you have any questions. Have an enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,
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***Houston Area Independent School Librarians' Network (HAISLN):
www.haisln.org



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Summer Reading- Entering 12th Grade

This summer, entering 12th grade students will read titles that range from classic novels to current literary selections. All books are available online and most have an audiobook version. Books are divided by reading level.

Directions for Summer Reading:

- 1.) Students will choose at least **TWO (2)** books to read over summer break. Students may select from both the fiction and the non-fiction list.
- 2.) Students will be required to **annotate (take notes)** in each book while they read this summer. Annotation instructions are included in this packet.
- 3.) When students return to school in the fall, they will complete writing assignments based on their completed summer reading. This will be done during the first week of class.

GRADING: Students will receive two grades for summer reading:

1. Completed annotations for each book (100 points total / 50 points per book)
2. Writing assignment for each book (200 points total / 100 points per writing assignment)

Summer reading is worth 10% of students' first quarter average.

Summer Reading Book List:

Non-Fiction List

Advanced:

The Miracle of Dunkirk: The True Story of Operation Dynamo by Walter Lord

This is the true story of the evacuation of Allied soldiers during WWII. Trapped on the beach, 338,000 men stood between Hitler and Western Europe. This story details the heroic rescue of these soldiers at the order of Churchill. It is based on interviews with survivors of the event.

Darkest Hour: How Churchill Brought England Back from the Brink by Anthony McCarten

This book examines Churchill's time as Prime Minister. It details Churchill's decisions as the fate of the world rested upon his shoulders.

Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt

This Pulitzer Prize-winning memoir details McCourt's childhood in the slums of Ireland. It is a story of poverty, survival, humor, and forgiveness.

The Lost City of Z: A Tale of a Deadly Obsession in the Amazon by David Grann

In 1925, the legendary British explorer Percy Fawcett ventured into the Amazon jungle, in search of a fabled civilization. He never returned. Over the years, countless perished trying to find evidence of his party and the place he called "The Lost City of Z".

Grade-Level:

Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage by Alfred Lansing

This is the harrowing tale of British explorer Ernest Shackleton's 1914 attempt to reach the South Pole. His ship, the *Endurance*, became locked in an island of ice. For 10 months, Shackleton and his crew waited until his ship was finally crushed in the ice. They were then forced to journey over 850 miles of the South Atlantic's worst seas to civilization.

Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania by Erik Larson

A luxury ocean liner sails from New York to Liverpool, carrying a record number of children and infants. As the *Lusitania* sails, German U-boat U-20, also heads towards Liverpool. This produced one of the great disasters in history.

The Football Man: People & Passions in Soccer by Arthur Hopcraft

The Football Man is repeatedly quoted as the best book ever written about the sport. This study of football and society profiles includes interviews with all-time greats. It is a snapshot of a pivotal era in sporting history; changes and decisions were made in the sixties that would create the game we know today.

The Time Traveler's Guide to Medieval England: A Handbook for Visitors to the Fourteenth Century by Ian Mortimer

This book is a literary time machine that takes readers into the sights, smells, and tastes of the fourteenth century. Readers will learn about what it was really like to live through this time.

Henry VIII: Royal Beheader by Sean Stewart Price

This book is part of the "Wicked History" series. It details Henry VIII's life, his allies and enemies, and contains historical images.

Isaac the Alchemist: Secrets of Isaac Newton, Revealed by Mary Losure

This nonfiction account traces Newton's development as a thinker from his childhood. Before he became the father of physics, an accomplished mathematician, or leader of the scientific revolution, he was a boy living in an apothecary's house, observing and experimenting, recording his observations of the world in a notebook.

Fiction List

Advanced:

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

This story tells of the fiercely independent Elizabeth Bennet, one of five sisters who must marry rich, as she confounds the arrogant, wealthy Mr. Darcy.

Emma by Jane Austen

A lively young heiress takes up matchmaking, and her schemes result in comic confusion for a social-climbing parson, a chatterbox spinster, an enigmatic Romeo, and other inhabitants of a 19th century English village.

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court by Mark Twain

Hank Morgan awakens one morning to find that he has been transported from 19th century New England to 6th century England and the reign of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table.

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

A coming-of-age story of poor and plain Jane Eyre who begins life as a lonely orphan in the household of her hateful aunt. Despite the oppression she endures at home, and the later torture of boarding school, Jane manages to emerge with her spirit unbroken. She becomes a governess and falls in love with her employer Mr. Rochester. But, an explosive secret tears apart their relationship.

Saint Joan by George Bernard Shaw

A chronicle play of the life of Joan of Arc. The play dramatizes her life based on what is known through records of her trial. Shaw presents Joan of Arc as a realistic person, full of flaws but a brave, rebellious hero.

The Hound of the Baskervilles by Arthur Conan Doyle

An eerie tale—the legend of the devil-beast that haunted the lonely moors around the Baskervilles' ancestral home. The tale warned the descendants to never venture out onto the moor, but Sir Charles Baskerville was now dead. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are faced with solving the terrifying case.

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie

Ten strangers are lured to an isolated island mansion off the Devon coast by a mysterious "U.N. Owen". At dinner a recorded message accuses each of them of having a guilty secret, and by the end of the night, one of the guests is dead. Stranded by a violent storm, one by one they begin to die. Who among them is the killer? Will any of them survive?

Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad

This novella tells the story of an ivory transporter working on the Congo River. He develops an intense interest in an ivory-procurement agent and he is shocked when he sees what European traders have done to the natives. In this story, Conrad explores the darkness potentially inherent in all human hearts.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass by Lewis Carroll (Intro. by Tan Lin)

Alice begins her adventures when she follows the White Rabbit down the hole into the magical world of Wonderland where she meets a variety of wonderful creatures. Alice continues her adventures in *Through the Looking-Glass*, which is loosely based on a game of chess.

Grade-Level:

Dracula by Bram Stoker

A novel of mystery and horror, love and death, sin and redemption—it chronicles Count Dracula's journey from Transylvania to the nighttime streets of London. There he searches for the blood of strong men and beautiful women while his enemies plot to rid the world of his frightful power.

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

A work of dystopian fiction in which people live in a technologically-advanced future where humans are genetically bred, socially indoctrinated, and kept calm through medication. This helps to passively uphold an authoritarian ruling order—at the cost of freedom, humanity, and perhaps their souls.

Watership Down by Richard Adams

The compelling tale of a group of wild rabbits. Set in England's Downs, once an idyllic rural landscape, these creatures fly from man's intrusion and the certain destruction of their home. They undergo terrifying trials posed by predators and adversaries, to a mysterious promised land and a more perfect society.

War Horse by Michael Morpurgo

In 1914, Joey, a distinctive foal, is sold to the army and thrust into the midst of war on the Western Front. With his officer, he charges toward the enemy, witnessing the horrors of the battles in France. Joey's courage touches the soldiers around him and he is able to find warmth and hope.

War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells

An early science fiction novel that describes an invasion of England by aliens from Mars.

Lord of the Flies by William Golding

At the dawn of the next world war, a plane crashes on an uncharted island, stranding a group of schoolboys. At first, with no adult supervision, their freedom is something to celebrate. But as order collapses and terror begins, the hope of adventure fades away.

The Mistress of the Art of Death by Ariana Franklin

In medieval Cambridge, England, Adelia, a female forensics expert, is summoned by King Henry II to investigate a series of murders that has wrongly implicated the Jewish population. As Adelia's investigation takes her behind the closed doors of the country's churches, the killer prepares to strike again.

All Creatures Great and Small by James Herriot

In this story, we meet young Herriot as he takes up his calling and discovers that the realities of veterinary practice in rural Yorkshire are very different from veterinary school. Some visits are heart-wrenchingly difficult, and some are light-hearted and fun. Herriot treats every patient that comes his way, observing animals and humans alike with a loving eye.

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe (Chronicles of Narnia Series #2) by C.S. Lewis

Four adventurous siblings step through a wardrobe door and into the land of Narnia, a land frozen in eternal winter and enslaved by the power of the White Witch. But when almost all hope is lost, the return of the Great Lion, Aslan, signals a great change and a great sacrifice.

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

When orphaned Mary Lennox comes to live at her uncle's great house on the Yorkshire Moors, she finds it full of secrets. The mansion has nearly one hundred rooms, and her uncle keeps himself locked up. And at night, she hears the sound of crying down one of the long corridors. The gardens surrounding the large property are Mary's only escape. Then, Mary discovers a secret garden, surrounded by walls and locked with a missing key. With the help of two unexpected companions, Mary discovers a way in—and becomes determined to bring the garden back to life.

King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table by Roger Lancelyn Green

King Arthur is one of the greatest legends of all time. From the magical moment when Arthur releases the sword in the stone to the quest for the Holy Grail and the final tragedy of the Last Battle, this book brings the enchanting world of King Arthur stunningly to life.

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson (ed. Cynthia Johnson)

A single person—but with two personalities: one that's noble and kind and another that's pure, repulsive evil. Robert Louis Stevenson's engrossing masterpiece about the dual nature of man—and a good doctor whose thirst for knowledge has tragic consequences—serves up all the suspense and satisfying chills one expects from the best horror and science fiction.

Othello: A Novel by Julius Lester

This retelling of Shakespeare's play recounts the story of Othello, a mercenary soldier who falls in love with the lord's daughter, Desdemona. Because Othello is black and Desdemona white, there is a great deal of controversy surrounding their marriage. It is, however, the underhanded maneuvering of Othello's friend, Iago, that ultimately leads to tragedy. Passed over for promotion time and again, Iago uses this opportunity to undermine Othello's position within the King's army. He plants seeds of doubt about Desdemona's fidelity. Once those seeds blossom, Othello's jealousy knows no bounds.

A Parcel of Patterns by Jill Patton Walsh

Mall Percival tells how the plague came to her Derbyshire village of Eyam in the year 1665, how the villagers determined to isolate themselves to prevent further spread of the disease, and how three-fourths of them died before the end of the following year.

Annotation Guide: Summer Reading

Rubric: (50 points available per book/100 points total available for annotations)

Advanced: (50 points)

- Text has been thoroughly annotated with meaningful questions, observations, and reflections of the content as well as the writing; variety of topics marked for discussion; variety of stylistic devices marked.
- Comments demonstrate analysis and interpretation - thinking beyond the surface level of the text. Thoughtful connections made to other texts, or other events throughout the text.
- Consistent markings throughout text (not bunched).
- Each chapter has several annotations.

Proficient: (40 points)

- Text has been annotated reasonably well with questions, observations, and/or reflections of the content as well as the writing style.
- Comments demonstrate some analysis and interpretation - thinking somewhat beyond the surface level of the text. Attempts at making connections.
- Some lapses in entries exist or entries may be bunched.
- Each chapter has at least two annotations.

Adequate: (30 points)

- Text has been briefly annotated with questions, comments, observations, and/or reflections of the content or writing style.
- Commentary remains mostly at the surface level. The commentary suggests thought in specific sections of the text rather than throughout.
- Entries may be sporadic.
- Each chapter has at least one annotation.

Inadequate: (20 points)

- Text has been briefly annotated.
- Little or no attempt to make connections.
- Not all chapters are annotated.

Annotation Suggestions:

1. Write comments to ask questions, relate to characters, and make connections to other texts.
2. Write comments about the author's style, word choice, or elements used in the story.
3. Star any passages that are important: events, descriptions, or cause/effect relationships.
4. Underline any sentences that made you think or appealed to you and describe your thinking.
5. Circle or highlight words that are unfamiliar. What do you think they mean?
6. Put a question mark by areas that you were confused or did not fully understand.
7. Mark spots where you have a strong reaction/emotion.
8. Underline the author's use of literary devices: point of view, repetition, allusion, tone/mood, imagery, theme, setting, symbols, foreshadowing, flashback, personification, metaphor/simile, etc.
9. Make a note where you see conflict in the story.
10. Make a note of anything that is interesting to you that you would like to write about in the fall.