

Legacy Christian Academy

Summer Reading Assignments for students entering Honors English 8

Summer Reading Philosophy:

Reading is a fundamental life skill, and it can also be a pleasurable and rewarding activity. The Legacy English Department cares greatly about fostering in our students the enjoyment of quality literature as well as helping them achieve academic gains across all disciplines. Studies show that people who read more become stronger readers and writers and have better vocabulary and spelling skills. Independent reading outside the classroom is just as important as guided reading inside the classroom in developing these skills. Our goal is for all students to take ownership of their reading and know the pleasure of independence.

For Summer Reading 7-12 grade students are assigned required reading. Then they are encouraged to complete additional reading. Students may choose additional books from the list below or books of choice.

REQUIRED Reading:

- *The Hiding Place: The Triumphant Story of Corrie Ten Boom*—Quiz on the first day of school over content
- One additional choice from the provided list

REQUIRED Project: Write a personal letter on the **independent reading choice** (not *The Hiding Place*) according to the instructions provided below.

Accountability

You are required to write me a letter with the following content for your independent reading book choice.

- Introduction: Who you are, your hobbies, your likes, dislikes, etc. Include some of your exciting summer adventures.
- Summary: Brief 2-5 sentences giving the synopsis of the storyline.
- Discuss one theme revealed in your book choice and provide analysis for how this theme was shown throughout the book.
- Opinions: What did you think about the book read? Why? Provide support with your opinion.
- Include additional titles read over the summer for your own enjoyment and personal growth.
- Close your letter professionally.

Important Things to Remember:

- Do not share this document with me. The due date will be announced the first day of school. I will address this assignment on the first day. It should be printed, ready to turn in, by the due date.
- Italicize and capitalize the title whenever it occurs within your letter.
- The name of the author must appear next to the title the first time it is mentioned.
- Spelling, punctuation, and grammar should reveal your best work.
- Be sure to have this typed, following a professional, yet friendly, format.
- Double Space, Size 12 Font, Easy to read font style.
- This will be a first impression of you and your ability. Please show me your finest work!

OPTIONAL: To be entered into a drawing for prizes, students must read a minimum of 600 pages. (The required reading of *The Hiding Place* does count toward this total!)

Independent Reading Choices

- *A Boy at War* by Harry Mazer
- *Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Choldenko
- *Native Son* by Richard Wright
- *Horse Thief* by Robert Newton Peck
- *Hitch* by Jeanette Ingold
- *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor
- *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- *Milkweed* by Jerry Spinelli
- *Zach's Lie* by Roland Smith
- *The Face on the Milk Carton* by Caroline B. Cooney
- *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson
- *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck
- *Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry
- *The 5th Wave* by Rick Yancy
- *Yellow Star* by Jennifer Roy
- *Divergent* by Veronica Roth
- *Insurgent* by Veronica Roth
- *Allegiant* by Veronica Roth
- *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
- *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetya
- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle
- *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin
- *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding
- *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld
- *Pretties* by Scott Westerfeld
- *Specials* by Scott Westerfeld
- *Extras* by Scott Westerfeld
- *Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger
- *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
- *Catching Fire* by Suzanne Collins
- *The Mockingjay* by Suzanne Collins
- *Among the Hidden* by Margaret Peterson Haddix
- *Flush* by Carl Hiaasen
- *So B. It* by Sarah Weeks
- *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien
- *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte
- *1984* by George Orwell
- *Chasing Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson
- *Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
- *Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse
- *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London
- *Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling
- *Crossing* by Gary Paulsen
- *Catherine, Called Birdy* by Karen Cushman
- *Brian's Hunt* by Gary Paulsen
- *Trapped in Hitler's Hell* by Anita Dittman
- *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen
- *Swiss Family Robinson* by Johann David Wyss
- *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
- *She Said Yes* by Misty Bernal
- *Saint Ben* by John Fischer
- *The Traveler's Gift* by Andy Andrews
- *One Tuesday Morning* by Karen Kingsbury
- *Beyond Tuesday Morning* by Karen Kingsbury
- *Every Now and Then* by Karen Kingsbury
- *Unlocked* by Karen Kingsbury
- *Thr3e* by Ted Dekker
- *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare

Greeting

Dear Mrs. Bruneau,

Date

August 21st, 2015

It was quite a summer! I played baseball and went on a mission trip to Mexico with my youth group. In Mexico, I really learned to rely on God to provide for my needs and the needs of the people we were trying to help. Reading *Saint Ben* by John Fischer this summer really helped me to see how God meets the needs of his people, wherever they are and whatever need they have.

**Introduction:
Likes / Hobbies &
Summer Activities**

**Transition
Statement**

Saint Ben is about a young boy whose father is the new pastor of a church. He becomes really great friends with the son of the worship leader. Together, these two boys spend a summer pulling practical jokes on the members of the church. Then, Ben becomes very ill and his friend needs to learn how to love someone he knows he may lose. This story is one of determination, love, and loss, and through the hardest of life's circumstances, this story proves that God is still in control. This is revealed by the maturation and transformation of Jonathan's character. From an immature, juvenile child, she teaches others how valuable qualities friendship and loyalty are.

**Synopsis
of the
book choice**

**Theme and
Support**

This book really was hard for me to put down. I wanted to follow the story of the two mischievous boys in their pursuit of their pranks. Reading how Jonathan becomes a real friend to Ben and is there for him throughout his life's hardship was really inspiring for me. I could relate to the challenges faced by the boys because I find myself enduring similar situations. I loved reading this book.

**Opinion
of the book**

Support

A few novels that I read for my own enjoyment included *Among the Betrayed* by Margaret Peterson Haddix, *When Heaven Weeps* by Ted Dekker, *Divergent* by Veronica Roth, *The Hiding Place* by Corrie ten Boom, and *The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt. I look forward to the new novels we get to read in English this year.

**Additional
books read**

Closing

Sincerely Yours,



John Smith

