

PCA's Summer Reading

At PCA, we are committed to developing lifelong learners. The summer reading program allows students to continue learning even when they are not in the classroom. The novel requirements below were chosen to promote student ownership and continue their development over the summer. Here are the goals and the expectations of the summer reading program.

Goals for Our Program:

1. Create a culture of readers at PCA.
2. Develop students who are critical thinkers, active readers, skilled writers, and who can research and defend a position effectively.

*Each grade will be responsible to read a novel from the list below, write a reflective essay, and give a Google slide presentation. These will be due on the first day of school. Late submissions will be marked down. Please submit these on time to get the school year started off strong.

Reading Assignments:

1. Middle School: A fiction or non-fiction book by a Christian author. Books must exceed 175 pages and be approved by a parent or guardian.
2. Freshman English: A non-fiction book. Books must exceed 200 pages and be approved by parents or guardians. (Freshman year starts with the book *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand.)
3. American Literature (10th Grade): A novel or short story written by an American author. Books must exceed 200 pages and be approved by parents or guardians. (The focus in American Lit is on American authors and their influence on literature today.)
4. British Literature (11th Grade): A novel or short story by a British author. Books must exceed 250 pages and be approved by parents or guardians.
5. Senior Language and Composition: A biography or autobiography. Books must exceed 300 pages and be approved by parents or guardians.
6. AP Courses: Students test into these classes. They will read a specific novel and write an essay as a required summer reading assignment, and there will be a meeting in June to discuss the guidelines and to hand out the novels and rubric.

Writing Assignments:

1. Middle School: Write a 1–2-page essay which includes the following:
 - Introductory paragraph about the novel they chose.
 - Three specific parts of the novel they enjoyed and why.
 - A strong conclusion that tells what the reader learned from this novel.

- Students need to sign that they read the entire novel at the bottom of their essay and include the name of the person who proofread the essay.
2. High School: Write a 3–5-page reflective essay in third person that includes the following:
- Introductory paragraph with a strong thesis statement
 - Information about the novel including who, what, when, where, how, and why
 - The background of the story and some information about the author
 - A strong conclusion that does NOT summarize but instead restates the thesis and leaves the reader with something abstract to consider (ex: universal ideas such as the importance of forgiveness or being kind, or the dangers of poverty or homelessness, etc.) *Give a broad perspective that connects people to something bigger than themselves.
 - Students need to sign that they read the entire novel at the bottom of their essay and include the name of the person who proofread the essay.

****All essays should be proofread for correct grammar and punctuation by an adult and corrected before submission. Any essays that are copied or that use Ai technology will receive an automatic zero. These tools are not allowed in PCA English writing assignments. Please put any direct quotes from the novel in quotations. If you have questions about the assignments, reach out to your English teacher, who will assist as needed.**

**** Students who use Spark Notes or other sources instead of reading will also receive a zero. All novels must be read in their entirety. Students are welcome to listen to an audio version of the novel while reading if they desire.**

Slide Presentation:

1. Create a 3-5 slide presentation that covers what was learned through this novel. This is a summary of the novel, so keep the slides simple and short. Do not use paragraphs on the slides, only simple statements, quotes, pictures, and short phrases. These serve as a reminder of what to say, but the presentation should not be read. Slides should be in a template and look professional (No black words on a white background...that is BORING!) Google Slides, Power point, or Canva may be used to create the presentations.
2. Include a title slide and any links used for information. If only the novel was used, cite it on the last slide and put "Works Cited" at the top of the slide. The title slide and citation slide are not included in the 3-5 slides, so presentations should be 3-5 slides PLUS the title and works cited slide.

****Middle schoolers do not need to do a works cited slide. ****

Again, if you have any questions or concerns about this assignment, please reach out to the English staff, and we will be happy to help you however we can. We want each student to succeed coming into the new school year, and we are here to serve you.

Have a wonderful summer!

In Christ,

The English Staff

Michelle Bushey-7th & 8th grade English (michelle.bushey@plymouthchristian.org)

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Rubric for Essay:

[Summer Reading Rubric](#)

Rubric for Presentation:

[Google Slide Presentation Rubric](#)