

PCA Secondary Summer Reading

PCA believes students should read quality novels over the summer to promote learning that endures. To foster students' development over the summer, prepare them for the upcoming school year, and to prevent what is often referred to as the "Summer Slide," the English department has developed some summer reading requirements that you will find outlined below.

Goals for Our Program:

1. PCA will develop a culture of well-read students
2. PCA will equip a community of students to think critically, read actively, write professionally, research extensively and defend a position effectively

Expectations for Each Grade:

- Read a novel following the guidelines
- Complete the assigned writing or graphic organizer. This will be counted as a grade.
- Assignments are due the first day of school, Thursday, August 21st but can be submitted on Google Classroom after August 1st (please see your student email for the invite)
 - High School will submit on Google Classroom
 - Please look out for a Google Classroom invite from your English teacher
 - Middle School will submit the graphic organizer in person on the first day of school but may also submit it via Google Classroom after August 1st

Please note: Any student who is enrolled in an AP class that has a summer assignment for the fall does NOT need to complete this summer project. AP students will be communicated with by their respective teachers about the required assignment.

Middle School Assignment:

Reading

- 150-page minimum
- Fiction or non-fiction book of choice that has not been previously read by the student
- Parents are responsible for guiding book selections.
- We recommend books by a Christian author but do not require it.

Writing

- Complete the graphic organizer including:
 - Book information
 - Summary
 - Theme
 - There is a page with examples of theme
 - Personal connection/takeaway
 - Quote
 - Use quotation marks and list the page number.
- The summer reading checklist will help you with completing all components of the assignment

High School Assignment:

Details for the high school summer essay can be found here: [PCA High School Summer Essay Guidelines](#)

Freshman English

- The book must exceed 150 pages
- Parents are responsible for guiding book selection.
- Write a 1.5 to 2-page reflective essay (**double-spaced**)

10th Grade- American Literature/Honors English

- Read any novel or short story written by an American author.
- Books must exceed 150 pages
- Parents are responsible for guiding book selection.
- Write a 1.5 to 2-page reflective essay (**double-spaced**)

11th Grade- British Literature

- Read a novel or short story by a British author
- Books must be a minimum of 200 pages
- Parents and guardians may guide book selections.
- Write a 2-page reflective essay (**double-spaced**)

Senior Language and Composition

- Read any biography or autobiography
- The book must be a minimum of 200 pages
- Write a 2-page reflective essay (**double-spaced**)

AP Courses students will read a specific novel and write an essay as a required summer reading assignment. There will be a meeting in May to discuss the guidelines and to hand out the novels and rubric. *Please note that students are required to test into AP classes.*

Any essays that are plagiarized or that use AI technology will need to be re-written and will only earn (at most) half credit. This includes the use of advanced Grammarly tools which are purchased. Using the free version of Grammarly is allowed.

Please include any direct quotes from the novel in quotations. If you have questions about the assignments, reach out to your English teacher, and he/she will assist and help out as much as is needed.

Again, if you have questions or concerns regarding the assignment, please reach out to the appropriate English teacher and we will be happy to assist you. Thank you for partnering with us in ensuring all PCA students are prepared for a successful school year in 2025-2026.

Have a wonderful summer!!

In Christ,

PCA English Staff

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