

Libertas Christian School
9th-12th Summer Reading

Instructions: The goals for summer reading are as follows:

1. ENJOY one of the great books of Western Civilization,
2. Expand your understanding and familiarity with the great books,
3. Equip your mind to make connections between the great books and great ideas we discuss at Libertas.

Choose at least one of the books from the list below to fulfill the summer reading requirement. Avoid annotations, book summaries, and skim reading. At Libertas, we value deep and careful reading. Feel free to mark the book if you own it or take notes if you are borrowing a book.

You may choose to re-read a book that you have previously read from this list. We value repeated readings of the great books and are sure you will gain a deeper understanding in a 2nd read. Whichever option you choose, you will write a reflection essay which will be due the first week of school. The two prompts are as follows:

Option #1 A New Read:	Option #2 A Re-Read:
Write a 5-paragraph essay which identifies and explores a theme of the book you read.	Write a 5-paragraph essay which identifies 3 things that you discovered in a new way.

Charles Dickens

The Pickwick Papers
The Old Curiosity Shop
Great Expectations
Oliver Twist
David Copperfield

Mark Twain

Huckleberry Finn
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Alexander Dumas

The Count of Monte Cristo
The Three Musketeers

Daniel Defoe

Robinson Crusoe

Victor Hugo

Les Misérables (abridged version acceptable)

Charlotte Bronte

Villette
Wuthering Heights

Virgil

The Aeneid

Fyodor Dostoevsky

Crime and Punishment
The Brothers Karamazov

Dante Alighieri

The Divine Comedy

Milton

Paradise Lost

Margaret Mitchell

Gone with the Wind

Daphne du Maurier

Rebecca

C.S. Lewis

The Space Trilogy (choose 1 of the 3)

Agatha Christie

And Then There Were None
Murder on the Orient Express

Edmond Rostand
Cyrano de Bergerac

Pearl S. Buck
The Good Earth

Leo Tolstoy
War and Peace

George Orwell
1984

George Eliot
Silas Marner
Middlemarch

J.R.R. Tolkien
The Lord of the Rings Trilogy (choose 1 of the 3)

Jane Austen
any novel

Shakespeare
any play

P.G. Wodehouse
Code of the Woosters
Right Ho, Jeeves

James Fenimore Cooper
The Last of the Mohicans

New students

Early enrollees need to attempt this summer reading assignment. Enrollees mid to late summer may choose to write the essay assignment based on one of the following short stories:

- “The Necklace” by Guy de Maupassant
- “The Lady or the Tiger” by Frank Stockton
- “The Cop and the Anthem” O. Henry
- “The Man and the Snake” by Ambrose Bierce
- “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge” by Ambrose Bierce
- “The Gift of the Magi” O. Henry
- “The Interlopers” by Saki
- “Rip Van Winkle” by Washington Irving
- “The Bet” by Anton Chekhov
- “The Celestial Omnibus” E.M. Forester

This is a standard essay that, most likely, you have encountered at your previous school. The 5 paragraphs include an introduction, body, and conclusion. Rather than a summary of the book, the essay prompt is asking you to think about a theme of the book. Your body paragraphs will explore 3 things about that theme, or if you are picking option 2, explore 3 new things you discovered while re-reading.