

Covenant Christian Academy

Entering Seventh - Twelfth Grade Summer Reading List (2026)

Instructions:

- The first book under each grade is Required Reading (marked by an asterisk *).
- Choose one other book from the list below. Do not pick one that you have read before.
- An assessment on the required reading book will be administered at the first of the school year.
- Be prepared to discuss and/or write about the second book you choose.

Seventh Grade – English and Composition

**Johnny Tremain: A Story of Boston in Revolt – Esther Hoskins Forbes*

Why this book?

Johnny Tremain offers a blend of historical fiction and coming-of-age narrative, bringing the American Revolution to life through the eyes of a young silversmith's apprentice. The novel explores themes of personal growth, the impact of war, and the struggle for liberty, making it an engaging and thought-provoking read for young readers.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn – Betty Smith

Hatchet – Gary Paulsen

Redwall – Brian Jacques

The Call of the Wild – Jack London

Eighth Grade – English and Composition

**The Hiding Place – Corrie ten Boom*

Why this book?

The Hiding Place is a non-fiction story about faith, forgiveness, and the power of love, even in the face of unimaginable suffering. It offers a powerful message about the transformative impact of God's love and the importance of finding hope even in the darkest of circumstances.

Little Women – Louisa May Alcott

A Wrinkle in Time – Madeleine L'Engle

Around the World in 80 Days – Jules Verne

Animal Farm – George Orwell

Ninth Grade – English and Composition

**To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee*

Why this book?

“To Kill a Mockingbird” may be the great American novel. Those who have read this story are touched by it. We see models of honor, respect, and loyalty combating tragedy and discrimination. A sleepy Alabama town houses a story and characters who make small, principled gains in a fight for a better world. Now grandparents, parents, and children can share the experience of reading this beautiful tale.

The Glass Menagerie – Tennessee Williams

Dracula – Bram Stoker

The Count of Monte Cristo – Alexandre Dumas

American Born Chinese – Gene Luen Yang

Much Ado about Nothing – William Shakespeare

Dandelion Wine – Ray Bradbury

Perelandra (book #2 in the three-part series) – C.S. Lewis

Tenth Grade – English and Composition

**Fahrenheit 451 – Ray Bradbury*

Why this book?

“Fahrenheit 451” is a warning wrapped in a compelling story. The reader will consider censorship - both good and bad – and will wrestle with the limiting of information and government’s place in administering these limitations. Ray Bradbury is a master storyteller; this book will challenge the reader and may foster conversations in the home as well as upon the return to school. It’s a quick read with a long-term message!

Pride and Prejudice – Jane Austen

Catch-22 – Joseph Heller

October Sky – Homer Hickham

Animal Farm – George Orwell

A Separate Peace – John Knowles

The Great Divorce – C.S. Lewis

11th Grade – American Literature

**The Great Gatsby – F. Scott Fitzgerald*

Why this book?

The Great Gatsby is considered by many to be the great American Novel. With romance, a rags to riches success story, the carelessness of those who have it all, and an underlying mystery, the Great Gatsby embodies the American Dream in all its reality. This is a cautionary tale that gives insight into human nature and is set in the 1920's; which is distinctive for its social, emotional, political and economic influence in America's history. It is during this time-period that the definition of success no longer finds its roots in family, but in wealth and personal property. As we discuss this novel, we will take a Biblical approach to define success using godly standards in contrast with worldly standards.

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn – Mark Twain

Death of a Salesman – Arthur Miller

The Sun Also Rises – Ernest Hemingway

The Red Badge of Courage – Stephen Crane

The Scarlett Letter – Nathaniel Hawthorne

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow – Washington Irving

Into the Wild – John Krakauer

AP US History

Additional Instructions: Read the required text. When we return to school, the teacher will assign written book reports for the summer reading.

****For students taking AP US History, this will satisfy the second book for sophomore English****

**Common Sense – Thomas Paine*

Why this book?

Common Sense by Thomas Paine argues for American independence from British rule, using clear and persuasive language to appeal to common people. Paine criticized monarchy and hereditary succession, urging the colonies to unite and form a democratic republic. It marks the change in American ideology from fighting for their rights as British citizens in the colonies to fighting for their independence.

Eleventh Grade - AP English Language

**The Education of Henry Adams – Henry Adams*

Why this book?

“Henry Adams” is regarded as one of the great autobiographies in US history. The author was the grandson of an American President, was a diplomat during the Civil War, and was the creator of seminar learning in schools. He muses over history, science, politics, and art. The book spans the mid-1800s up to the doorstep of World War I. Arrogant, incisive, and intellectual is the author. It’s a book of detail, musings, and surprises.

1776 – David McCullough

Unbroken: An Olympian’s Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive – Laura Hillenbrand

Sea Biscuit: An American Legend – Laura Hillenbrand

Into the Wild – Jon Krakauer

Tipping Point – Malcom Gladwell

The Sweet Science – A.J. Liebling

AP Government

Additional Instructions: *Read the required texts and one additional text from the list. When we return to school, the teacher will assign presentations for the summer readings.*

**The Federalist Papers (10, 51, 70, and 78)*

**The Declaration of Independence*

**Articles of the Confederation*

**Brutus 1*

**The Constitution of the United States*

**Letter from a Birmingham Jail*

Why this book?

Each of the documents is a required document for the College Board AP Exam. Students will be tested based on knowledge and application of the foundational documents for our American Government.

Before You Vote – David Platt

Twelfth Grade – British Literature

**The Picture of Dorian Gray – Oscar Wilde*

Why this book?

The Picture of Dorian Gray offers a captivating read for its exploration of morality, hedonism, and the human condition. The novel delves into the seductive power of beauty, the corrupting influence of pleasure, and the consequences of surrendering to one's baser desires. The use of wit, social commentary, and philosophical depth make it a thought-provoking and enduring literary work.

Sense and Sensibility – Jane Austen

The Pickwick Papers – Charles Dickens

Wuthering Heights – Emily Bronte

AP English Literature

**1984 – George Orwell OR Brave New World – Aldous Huxley (only 1 is required)*

Why this book?

“1984” and “Brave New World” were predictors of many of the challenges in today’s world. Technology, distraction, and the dilution of individuality are discussed front and center. The reader will be troubled by large portions of the book(s); and therefore, forewarned! Thankfully, we as Christians know our faith can overcome all these difficulties.

Hamlet – William Shakespeare

Crime and Punishment – Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Waiting for Godot – Samuel Beckett

House on Mango Street – Sandra Cisneros

The Stranger – Albert Camus

To the Lighthouse – Virginia Wolfe