



9th Grade Summer Reading 2024-2025

Required: *Beowulf: A New Verse Translation* by Seamus Heany
a pdf of the 10-page retelling of "Cupid and Psyche" from Hamilton's *Mythology*
(Stonehaven will provide both the book and the pdf listed above to you in May of 8th grade.)
Till We Have Faces C.S. Lewis (a novel based on the Cupid and Psyche myth)
(Please purchase any copy of this book. You need to be able to annotate.)

Read one additional book of your choice. (Purchasing is *recommended*, so you can annotate, but this book *may* be checked out of a library or read in an e-book format.) You should choose a book that is both enjoyable and an appropriate challenge. See the list on page 2 for some ideas, or consult any upper school faculty member for additional suggestions.

Summer Reading Assessments: Prepare for tests on *Beowulf*, "Cupid and Psyche" and *Till We Have Faces* in the first full week of school. For the additional book, prepare for reflective writing assignments and discussions.

How and why to surface-level annotate: Annotation is essential when studying any text – as a teacher or as a student. Reading with a pen in hand and following these guidelines will ensure you engage with a text and help you retain what you've read and create a roadmap of your thoughts when you return to a book later.

Often students fall into one of two ditches regarding annotation.

1. They don't know what to annotate/underline, so they do nothing.
2. They end up highlighting everything (so in essence have highlighted nothing) and/or get so bogged down in annotating that they take FOREVER to read – which can be discouraging too. (And we don't want that for you.)

The goal of the surface-level annotation that Stonehaven expects throughout your academic career is simply to engage the text. Light annotating will keep your mind active and provide road-marks along the way that will help you as we revisit the text for future class exercises. It keeps the pages from being simply meaningless rectangles of text. It truly is helpful -- many students of the present and bygone era will confirm the value.

General reading tips:

- Always read with a pen in hand. Just making little ticks as you go keeps you engaged in the text and checking your understanding.
- Don't be overly obsessive about note taking, but if a passage interests you, underline it, or if it's a long one, put a bracket by it in the margin. Perhaps jot a note about why that interests you.
- If you're confused, put a question mark in the margin. If you're amused, put an LOL. If you're shocked, put an exclamation point!
- Underline words you don't know and jot a short definition in the margin.
- Note in the margins if a passage/moment reminds you of something else You've read/seen/heard. Simply use a similar sign (two squiggles) from geometry and write a title, author, character – whatever. (For example, very likely the Cupid and Psyche myth and *Till We Have Faces* will remind you of other Cinderella-type stories.)
- For novels/plays, go back to the beginning of a chapter/scene and jot a short note about what happened in that chapter -- 2-3 lines tops. Some authors (Mark Twain, Cervantes) do a bit of this for you, but sometimes they are vague, and making your own summary will help you reflect and retain.
- Stop every page or so and jot a BRIEF (2-8 words usually) summary of what is going on, in general trying not to let too many pages go by with no marks from you.

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Considerations for third summer reading book:

Fiction

Watership Down by Richard Adams
Little Men by Louisa May Allcott
Fever, 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson
The Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan
The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane
The Hound of the Baskervilles by Arthur Conan Doyle
Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe
Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens
The Three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas
The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas
Jim the Boy by Tony Early
Silas Marner by George Eliot
The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton
The Hunchback of Notre Dame by Victor Hugo
Captains Courageous by Rudyard Kipling
The Call of the Wild by Jack London
White Fang by Jack London
The Scarlet Pimpernel by Emma Orczy
Animal Farm by George Orwell
True Grit by Charles Portis
Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

The Pearl by John Steinbeck
Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson
Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring by J.R.R. Tolkien
The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers by J.R.R. Tolkien
The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King by J.R.R. Tolkien
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
Around the World in Eighty Days by Jules Verne
Ethan Frome by Edith Wharton

Nonfiction

The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown
Founding Brothers by Joseph Ellis
The Diary of Anne Frank by Anne Frank
The Duel by Judith St. George
The President Has Been Shot by James Swanson
Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James Swanson

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