



STONEHAVEN
CHRIST-CENTERED CLASSICAL EDUCATION

11th Grade Summer Reading 2025-2026

Required: *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck (Please read this last, closer to our start date in August, up to Part 3)
(Stonehaven will provide the above to you in May of 10th grade.)
Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neal Hurston
(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 *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and *East of Eden*, parts 1 and 2 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, *East of Eden* has many parallels to the book of Genesis.)
- 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

Emma by Jane Austen
Persuasion by Jane Austen
Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen
Nathan Coulter by Wendell Berry
Hannah Coulter by Wendell Berry
Godric by Frederick Buechner
In Cold Blood by Truman Capote
The Man Who Was Thursday by G.K. Chesterton
The Awakening by Kate Chopin
Bleak House by Charles Dickens
Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
The Mill on the Floss by George Eliot
Peace Like a River by Leif Enger
The Unvanquished by William Faulkner
Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy
Jude the Obscure by Thomas Hardy
Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
Moses, Man on the Mountain by Zora Neale Hurston
A Separate Peace by John Knowles
Out of the Silent Planet by C.S. Lewis
Perelandra by C.S. Lewis
All the Pretty Horses by Cormac McCarthy
The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter by Carson McCullers
Wise Blood by Flannery O'Connor
Pudd'nhead Wilson by Mark Twain
The Moviegoer by Walker Percy
The Chosen by Chaim Potok
The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde
The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde
The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams
The House of Mirth by Edith Wharton

Nonfiction

Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand
The Splendid and the Vile by Erik Larson
In the Garden of Beasts by Erik Larson
Brave Companions by David McCullough
Mornings on Horseback by David McCullough
River of Doubt by Candice Millard
In the Heart of the Sea by Nathaniel Philbrick

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