



STONEHAVEN
CHRIST-CENTERED CLASSICAL EDUCATION

7th Grade Summer Reading 2025-2026

Required: (Stonehaven will provide this book to you in May of 6th grade.)

The Giver by Lois Lowry. (Please read towards the end of the summer)

Choose one of the following: (Please purchase any copy of this book. You need to be able to annotate in your book.)

- *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- *The Lost World* by Arthur Conan Doyle
- *Jin the Boy* by Tony Earley
- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle
- *True Grit* by Charles Portis
- *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor
- *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring, The Two Towers, or The Return of The King* by J.R.R. Tolkien

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. You may also choose a second book from the list above.

Summer Reading Assessments: Prepare for a test on *The Giver* in the first full week of school. For the other two books, 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, maybe the appearance of color in *The Giver* reminds you of *The Wizard of Oz*.)
- 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:

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
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
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 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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