



STONEHAVEN  
CHRIST-CENTERED CLASSICAL EDUCATION

## 9th Grade Summer Reading 2025-2026

**Required:** *Till We Have Faces* C.S. Lewis (a novel based on the Cupid and Psyche myth)  
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.)  
*Beowulf: A New Verse Translation* by Seamus Heany  
(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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