

The ability to read is a fundamental life skill. Reading can also be one of the most rewarding and pleasurable activities in which we engage. With guidance from the Learning Commons and our English/Language Arts departments, MCA has set a goal to encourage students to appreciate and enjoy quality literature and reading. As such, during the summer, students are given one book at each grade level that all are required to read and review. Please see below for your specific assignment. Happy reading!

- I. Welcome to English 9! In English 9, each student will develop a Christian worldview of literature, as well as gain practical skills in critical thinking and expression. Students will also gain appreciation for classic literature from around the world and a deeper understanding of the place it holds in our culture. Furthermore, this class will help prepare students for higher level English courses and college entrance exams such as ACT and SAT.
- II. This summer you will be reading a novel of your choice that is at least 200 pages in length. This does NOT include graphic novels. Additionally, you must choose a novel that is age appropriate. For example, you cannot choose to read *The Chronicles of Narnia*, as it is an elementary school reading level. An easy place to check for reading level is amazon.com. Simply look up the novel and scroll down to *Product details*. Choosing a book that is not age appropriate or does not meet the minimum page length requirement will result in a loss of points.
- III. Either as you read or after you have read you will create a visual representation of your summer reading book that you will present in the form of a tissue box.
  - **Materials Needed:**
    - One cube-shaped or rectangular tissue box (not used—it should have tissues in it!)
    - Paper, pens, markers, crayons, colored pencils, etc. to decorate
    - If you would like to type out certain elements or print out graphics to include on your tissue box, you may!
  - **Directions and Requirements:**
    - Side 1: Book Cover Design/create a (miniature) brand new book cover for your novel that somehow represents the book. Be sure to include the title of the book and the author's full name.
    - Side 2: Changes In 8-10 sentences, describe the character that changed the most from the beginning of the book to the end. Explain their change, what causes it, etc. Be sure to use examples from the book.
    - Side 3: Theme What is the theme (or overall message/ biggest takeaway) that ANY reader can take away from this book? In 6-

If you would like to read more than your required summer reading, additional titles/reading lists are available on MCA's website.

Maranatha Christian Academy  
Summer Reading 2026 (entering grade 9)

8 sentences, describe the theme of the novel and explain how it is demonstrated. Be sure to use examples from the book.

- Side 4: Christian Worldview In 6-8 sentences, describe how the book compares to your Christian worldview. Consider how the book would answer the following questions: Does God exist? Is there life after death? What is the purpose of life? Are human beings mainly good, mainly bad, or a mixture of both? What is happiness, and how does one find happiness? Use specific examples in the book to show how it would answer those questions and discuss how the answers are similar to or different from the answers found in the Bible.
- Side 5: Critic Write a brief book review (at least two paragraphs, 5-6 sentences each). Please include a brief plot summary, your opinion of the book, a rating on a scale of 1-10, recommendations for who would like the book, etc.
- **Presentation Component:**
  - Within the first week of school, you will be placed in small groups to share about the book you read and the project you created. While there is no specific time requirement for the presentation as it is more informal, you should be prepared to explain each side of your tissue box thoroughly.

IV. This assignment will be due **in person at the beginning of our second class period**. Because we jump into class content in the first week of school, this due date prevents students' summer reading assignment from interfering with the new homework that will be given at the start of the school year.

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