



# Upper School SUMMER READING



## INSTRUCTIONS:

As we planned for 2020's summer reading, two goals emerged. We wanted to offer you some choice about what you read, and we wanted to build community on multiple levels. Each rising grade level has been assigned one book, and you must also choose one other book to read from your grade level's list of three.

[Please note: Students who have enrolled in an AP Art History, AP European History, AP Language and Composition, AP Literature and Composition, AP Government and Politics, AP Latin, and AP US History have an additional book to read as well as an assignment. Please see the AP Summer Reading List for more information. Click the course name to view your assignment.]

## GOALS:

You are probably wondering what you're going to do with these books. And to that we say: plan to discuss them in a variety of ways. "Discuss[ing]" might happen in an essay or a Socratic seminar or in a speech. Regardless of how it happens, you should know the book well enough to discuss it with intelligence, some attention to detail, and with an understanding of the whole book--not just parts.

So maybe at this point, you're wondering, "Where are the TedTalks? Why are we reading books?" And those are great questions. We liked the TedTalks, too; but, we also see the importance of reading and wanted to make that our focus this summer. It's good practice. Just like your body might become accustomed to sleeping until noon during the summer months, and you struggle to wake up on time during the first few weeks of school, if you don't read over the summer--your brain gets used to that and has to play catch up, too.

And there are other reasons we want you to read--it lowers anxiety, makes us more empathetic, and can even improve our sleep. Reading can also build community--one of our goals for summer reading this year. When we all read the same thing, our conversation about it builds relationships, encourages dialogue, and can make us better listeners.

Some of you are really excited--you may even look forward to summer reading. But others of you may have busy summers or reading isn't really something you enjoy, and so this may feel like a daunting task.

## HERE ARE SOME HELPFUL IDEAS AND TIPS TO CONSIDER:

- First, **make a plan**. Decide early which book you will choose, and purchase it and the required book for your grade level. Add up the total number of pages you have to read and decide how long it will realistically take you to complete the reading. Don't forget to consider the impact of family trips or camps or long car rides.
- Consider **when you should read these books**--it's great to complete your reading in June, but not if you won't remember it on August 26. But, you also want to have time to think about what you're reading and avoid stress before school even begins--so waiting until the middle of August to begin probably isn't a great idea either.
- All but two of the books on the list have **audiobook editions**. While you should still own a text version of the book (whether an ebook or a hardcopy) for reference over the school year, listening to an audiobook is also a great way to "read." And, if reading is something you struggle with, reading along with your own book as you listen is a great way to build fluency.

- There are some **reading skills and strategies** you should keep in mind, too.
  - First, **where and when you read is important**. Find a spot that works best for you--free of distractions. And in that, we're all different. Some of us are totally thrown off by the bustle of a place like Starbucks, but others can tune it out. In the same way, some people work best at night, but others are most alert in the morning. Figuring out your ideal time and place to read can make it a more enjoyable task and increase your comprehension.
  - **Take breaks!** Even people who love to read often take breaks every 30 to 45 minutes while reading.
  - Check your understanding as you read; if you finish a paragraph and have no idea what it was about, **go back and reread**.
  - But, if you're drowning in a paragraph--especially when reading nonfiction--**sometimes it's ok to skim it**, get the general idea, and move on.
  - Consider **marking the text** when you read for ideas or words that made you think, making a note of what you felt as you read certain passages, or questions you had as you read. This practice can also help you pay attention as you read.
- One last note for rising juniors: the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum sponsors an essay contest each year. Students are asked to read *Profiles in Courage* and respond to a prompt in essay form, and the winner is awarded a significant scholarship. Click [here](#) for more information. If you are interested in completing the essay, it may be wise to choose this as your optional book. Please feel free to utilize Mrs. Ramsey's help in the [Writing Center](#) with this project.

Do you have questions? Do you need help choosing a book?  
Please contact Mrs. Jessica Ramsey at [jessica.ramsey@charchrist.com](mailto:jessica.ramsey@charchrist.com).

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**Instructions:** During the summer months, each grade level will read two books. The first has been chosen for you, but you may choose the second from the list of options. Read carefully and complete both books by the first day of school. Bring your books with you when you return and be prepared to discuss them in a variety of ways. Please note: if you are enrolled in an AP course, please check to see if additional summer reading is required for that course. Questions? Please contact Mrs. Jessica Ramsey at [jessica.ramsey@charchrist.com](mailto:jessica.ramsey@charchrist.com).

9

### REQUIRED

***The Coffee Bean: A Simple Lesson to Create Positive Change***  
by Jon Gordon  
[ISBN: 978-1119430278]

### CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

***Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team That Changed a Town***  
by Warren St. John  
[978-0385741958]

***\*Refugee***  
by Alan Gratz  
[978-0545880831]

***\*The Outsiders***  
by S.E. Hinton  
[978-0142407332]

10

### REQUIRED

***\*Chasing King's Killer: The Hunt for Martin Luther King Jr.'s Assassin***  
by James L. Swanson  
[ISBN:978-0545723336]

### CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

***\*Unbroken***  
by Laura Hillenbrand  
[978-0812987119]

***\*The Help***  
by Kathryn Stockett  
[978-0425232200]

***\*Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet***  
by Jamie Ford  
[978-0345505347]

11

### REQUIRED

***\*Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption***  
by Bryan Stevenson  
[ISBN: 978-0812984965]

### CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

***\*Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity***  
by Nabeel Qureshi  
[978-0310092643]

***The Complete Maus***  
by Art Spiegelman  
[978-0679406419]

***\*Profiles in Courage***  
by John F. Kennedy  
[978-0062278791]

12

### REQUIRED

***\*Between the World and Me***  
by Ta-Nehisi Coates  
[ISBN: 978-0812993547]

### CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

***\*The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business***  
by Charles Duhigg  
[978-0812981605]

***\*Integrity: The Courage to Meet the Demands of Reality***  
by Henry Cloud  
[978-0060849696]

***\*Mere Christianity***  
by C.S. Lewis  
[978-0060652920]