

10th Grade Summer Reading List

Choose and Read ONE book from the list below.

Watership Down by Richard Adams	In a world where rabbits rule, a brave band of bunnies embarks on a wild quest for a better home. Led by the courageous Hazel and the visionary Fiver, they face treacherous dangers, cunning enemies, and make unexpected alliances along the way. "Watership Down" is a rabbit tale of adventure, resilience, and the enduring spirit of fluffy heroes.
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury	In a future society where books are banned, a fireman begins questioning everything he has been taught to believe. The novel explores censorship, technology, and the importance of independent thought.
The Red Badge of Courage by Steven Crane	During the American Civil War, the story is about a young private of the Union Army, Henry Fleming, who struggles with wanting to be a war hero, while trying not to succumb to cowardice.
The Book Thief by Markus Zusak	During World War II, a young girl in Nazi Germany discovers the power of words and books. The story highlights friendship, suffering, courage, and hope during difficult times.
At Least We Can Apologise by Lee Ki-Ho	Jin-man and Si-bong are unexpectedly set free from a mysterious institution and start an agency whose only purpose is to offer apologies--for a fee--on behalf of its clients. This seemingly insignificant service leads us into an examination of sin, guilt, and the often-irrational demands of society.
The Princess and the Goblin by George MacDonald	A princess and a miner boy uncover a hidden threat beneath the mountains. The fantasy story emphasises courage, faith, and trusting what cannot always be seen.
The Endless Steppe: Growing up in Siberia by Esther Hautzig	The story of a girl and her family being forced from Poland by Russia for being "political enemies," they are then shipped to Siberia, and she and her family are forced to stay there for 5 years, trying to survive and make a living for themselves.
Cry The Beloved Country by Alan Paton	A South African pastor journeys to Johannesburg searching for his son. The novel explores justice, forgiveness, racial division, and reconciliation.
The Count of Monte Cristo by J. Alexandre Dumas	After being falsely imprisoned, Edmond Dantès escapes and seeks revenge against those who betrayed him. The story examines justice, mercy, patience, and forgiveness.
The Pearl by John Steinbeck	A poor fisherman discovers a valuable pearl that he hopes will change his family's future. Instead, greed and corruption begin destroying the life he treasures.
A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens	Set during the French Revolution, the novel follows several lives connected through sacrifice and redemption. It explores justice, resurrection, and the consequences of hatred.
The Bronze Bow by Elizabeth George Speare	A Jewish boy living under Roman rule struggles with hatred and revenge after losing his family. Through unexpected friendships and encounters with Jesus, he learns about forgiveness and true strength.
Follow the Rabbit-Proof Fence by Doris Pilkington	Based on a true story, the book is a personal account of an Indigenous Australian family's experiences as members of the Stolen Generation—the forced removal of mixed-race children from their families during the early 20th century.
The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton	Rival groups of teenagers struggle with violence, identity, and belonging. The story explores loyalty, social division, and growing up.

Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand	This true story follows Olympic runner Louis Zamperini through war, survival, and imprisonment during World War II. His perseverance and eventual forgiveness demonstrate extraordinary resilience.
The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman	Details the deterioration of a woman's mental health while she is on a "rest cure" on a rented summer country estate with her family. Her obsession with the yellow wallpaper in her bedroom marks her descent into psychosis from her depression throughout the story.
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee	A young girl's coming of age and a darker drama about the roots and consequences of racism and prejudice, probing how good and evil can coexist in a single community or individual.
Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls	Billy Coleman lives in the Ozark Mountains. His dream is to purchase redbone coonhound dogs and train them to hunt. Follow their adventures and challenges.
The Old Man and the Sea by Earnest Hemingway	An aging fisherman battles a giant marlin far out at sea. The story explores perseverance, dignity, and man's struggle against hardship.
The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau	A post-apocalyptic underground city threatened by aging infrastructure and corruption. Lina Mayfleet and Doon Harrow follow clues left by the original builders to safety in the outside world.
The Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor	An African American family in the South fights to maintain dignity and independence during the Great Depression. The novel explores injustice, courage, and family loyalty.
The Hounds of the Baskervilles by Arthur Conan Doyle	Sherlock Holmes investigates a mysterious curse surrounding an English family. The novel blends suspense, logic, and the battle between superstition and reason.
Peace Like a River by Leif Enger	A young boy recounts his family's journey across the Midwest after his older brother becomes a fugitive. The novel combines adventure, faith, justice, and miracles.
Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes	An apprentice silversmith becomes involved in the events leading to the American Revolution. The story explores maturity, sacrifice, and patriotism.
Any book of your choice by C.S. Lewis	
Any book of your choice by Frank Peretti	
Any book of your choice by J.R.R. Tolkien	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW

10th Grade Summer Reading Guidelines

Option #1

Instructions

Choose **one** book from the provided reading list. The book may be borrowed from a library or purchased online, locally, or electronically.

After reading the book, write a short essay answering the questions below about your chosen novel. Your essay should:

- Be **1–2 pages**
- Be **typed**
- Be **double-spaced**

Do **not** copy the questions or use bullet points. Your response should be written in paragraph form.

Your essay must include:

- At least **3 paragraphs**
- Each paragraph should contain approximately **5–7 sentences**

Use your own words. Do not copy information from websites, AI programs, books, or other outside sources. Copying someone else's work is called **plagiarism** and will result in a failing grade and disciplinary consequences.

This assignment is due on the FIRST day of class.

Questions

Include the following:

- Title of the book
- Year of publication
- Author's name

Choose:

- **1 question** from Personal and Textual Connections
- **1 question** from Setting
- **1 question** from Characters
- **2 questions** from Plot

Personal and Textual Connections

- *How does the story make you feel?*
- *Have you ever had a similar experience?*
- *Do any of the characters remind you of someone in your life?*

Setting

- *When and where does the story take place?*
- *Is the setting important to the story? How?*
- *Does the season or time period affect the characters or plot?*

Characters

- *Who is the main character?*
- *What important choices does the character make?*
- *Who is another character who either helps or hurts the main character?*

Plot

- *What is the main problem in the story? How is it solved?*
- *What is the most exciting part (the climax) of the story?*
- *How does the story end? Did you enjoy the ending?*
- *Do you still have any unanswered questions about the story?*

See next page for Option #2

Option #2

Instructions

Creative Project

Instead of completing the full essay, students may choose to create a physical project based on their book, such as:

- a Book Nook,
- Diorama,
- Shadow Box,
- or detailed scene model.

Students who choose this option will complete a shortened written reflection instead of the full essay.

Creative Project Reflection

Students must submit:

- The physical project
- A 1-page typed reflection

The reflection should explain:

1. Why they chose that specific scene or setting
2. Why it is important to the story
3. What details they included and why
4. What the scene reveals about a character or theme
5. What they learned from the book

The project must:

- Represent an important scene, setting, or moment from the story,
- Include accurate details from the book,
- Show creativity, effort, and understanding of the novel.

The written reflection should be approximately 1 page, typed, and answer:

- One question about setting, character, plot, and personal connection,
OR explain the significance of the chosen scene and how it connects to the story's themes and characters.
- Still include the title, the author, and the date of publication