

11th Grade Summer Reading List

Choose and Read ONE book from the list below.

Watership Down by Harper Lee	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.
To Kill a Mockingbird by Ray Bradbury	A young girl in the South witnesses her father defend a falsely accused Black man. The novel explores justice, morality, prejudice, and growing up.
The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne	In Puritan New England, a woman is punished for adultery and forced to live publicly shamed. The novel examines sin, guilt, and redemption.
The Crucible by Arthur Miller	During the Salem witch trials, fear and accusations destroyed a community. The play serves as an allegory about hysteria, truth, and integrity.
At Least We Can Apologize 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 Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane	A young soldier experiences fear and growth during the Civil War. The novel focuses on courage, psychology, and maturity.
Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck	Two migrant workers chase a dream of land ownership during the Great Depression. The story explores friendship, loneliness, and broken dreams.
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain	A boy and an escaped slave travel down the Mississippi River, confronting moral and social issues. The novel explores freedom, conscience, and American identity.
Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass by Fredrick Douglas	A firsthand account of slavery and the journey to freedom through literacy and courage. The narrative highlights injustice, perseverance, and hope.
Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe	A powerful depiction of slavery in America that influenced public opinion before the Civil War. The novel emphasizes compassion, justice, and moral responsibility.
The Great Divorce by C.S. Lewis	A man journeys from a grey town to the edge of Heaven, where souls must choose between pride and grace. The story explores eternity, repentance, and human desire.
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.
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.
A Separate Peace by John Knowles	Two boys at a boarding school during World War II experience friendship, jealousy, and tragedy. The novel explores innocence, guilt, and identity.
The Call of the Wild by Jack London	A domesticated dog is taken into the harsh Yukon wilderness during the Gold Rush. The story explores survival, instinct, and transformation.

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson	A young boy joins a dangerous pirate voyage in search of buried treasure. The story explores adventure, loyalty, and betrayal.
The Pearl by John Steinbeck	A poor fisherman finds a valuable pearl that brings unintended destruction. The story examines greed, hope, and human nature.
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 Ernest Hemingway	An aging fisherman battles a giant marlin far out at sea. The story explores perseverance, dignity, and man's struggle against hardship.
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.
The Book Thief by Markus Zusak	A girl in Nazi Germany finds comfort in stolen books during World War II. The novel highlights the power of words, loss, and courage.
The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom	A Dutch Christian family hides Jews during WWII and suffers imprisonment for their faith. The memoir emphasizes forgiveness, courage, and trust in God.
The Bronze Bow by Elizabeth George Speare	A young man under Roman rule struggles with hatred after tragedy. Through encounters with Jesus, he learns forgiveness and peace.
Number the Stars by Lois Lowry	A Danish girl helps her Jewish friend escape Nazi soldiers during WWII. The novel focuses on courage, sacrifice, and friendship.
A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park	An orphan in medieval Korea dreams of becoming a master potter. Through perseverance and humility, he learns integrity and purpose.
Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir	A lone astronaut wakes up on a spaceship with no memory of how he got there and discovers he is humanity's last hope. As he works to solve a life-or-death scientific problem, he forms an unexpected friendship that challenges his understanding of survival, sacrifice, and cooperation.
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

11th 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