

Tampa Bay Christian Academy  
Summer Reading Requirements for 2014  
High School (9th-12th Upper School)

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.  
--Joseph Addison

### **Why Summer Reading?**

Tampa Bay Christian Academy knows that reading will increase students' vocabulary, spelling, and writing skills, as well as help students gain new perspectives on life situations. The more reading people do, the more information they gain, and the better their reading skills become. Reading is an effective means of preparing for standardized tests such as the SAT and ACT and will ultimately help our students to succeed in college or wherever the Lord may lead them.

### **When Is Summer Reading Due?**

The summer reading requirements must be completed by the first day of school. *No late assignments will be accepted.* Your reading log(s) will count as a test grade for the first quarter of the school year. High school students who register within one week prior to the start of school must complete the required reading and log(s) and turn the work in by September 2, 2014.

*This assignment is NOT optional.* Students who do not turn in the work by the assigned day will receive a zero.

### **Summer Reading Requirements:**

#### English II and English II Tips

Read one (1) book from the following list: *Kon-Tiki* by Thor Heyerdahl, *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles, *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan, or *Night* by Elie Wiesel. Complete one (1) reading log, following the directions given on the next page.

#### English II Honors

Read two (2) books from the English I list and complete two (2) reading logs, one for each book. You also have the option of reading a play instead of one of the books. The play is *Twelve Angry Men* by Reginald Rose. Complete a reading log for the play, too.

#### English IV and English IV Tips

Read one (1) book from the following list: *Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen, *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, or *The War of the Worlds* by H. G. Wells. Complete one (1) reading log, following the directions given on the next page.

#### English IV Honors

Read two (2) books from the English III list and complete two (2) reading logs, one for each book. You may read a play instead of one of the books, *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw, and complete a reading log for the play.

## **READING LOG INSTRUCTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

**STICKY NOTES:** As you read, use sticky notes to mark passages that seem noteworthy.

Each passage may . . .

- Present a conflict
- Provide character detail (maybe you agree/disagree with a character's actions, or maybe the passage sheds light on a character's motives)
- Seem to foreshadow some future event
- Create a personal connection
- Remind you of a similar situation in another book you've read
- Cause you to question something
- Set a specific tone or mood
- Create confusion for you in understanding some aspect of the text
- Present an important symbol
- Include a recurring idea/action/event/theme/message

### **READING LOG:**

Once you have read a few chapters, begin writing your reading log. To do this, complete the following steps:

1. Open a blank document in Microsoft Word or some similar word processing program.
2. Set margins at ½ inch on all 4 sides (left, right, top, bottom).
3. Insert a table that has 4 columns and about 4 rows. (Go to Table, Insert, Table, click in box.)
4. Label your columns (see example on back): Page#, Chapter, What the book says, What I say.
5. Adjust columns, allowing more room for the "What I say" column. (Click on the line; move the cursor over and the column will shrink or grow as you desire.)
6. Type passages in the "What the book says" column, noting the page number and chapter number in the appropriate columns. As you type, the box will "grow" with you.
7. Type your reflection/response in the "What I say" column (refer to list above for response ideas).
8. Save your work, and continue adding to your log as you read. Be sure to back up your work.
9. To add new rows, simply click in the last "What I say" box and press the tab key; a new row should automatically appear.
10. If you are unable to gain access to a computer, you may complete a neatly handwritten reading log in the same format.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

Your reading log will be graded based on the following requirements:

- **You must complete one (1) reading log for each book.**
- **You must have at least ten (10) entries in each reading log.**
- Selected passages should cover the book's entirety (you must prove you have read and understood the entire book).
- Your reading log should be UNIQUE; it should include YOUR OWN thoughts and feelings about the characters and events in the book; don't be afraid to use 1<sup>st</sup> person for this assignment.
- Don't go overboard; try to note only the most important, confusing, or noteworthy passages.

### **A NOTE REGARDING ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

*Students must complete this assignment without the help of any secondary sources. The purpose of this assignment is to encourage the process of reflection. Thus, students can only "find the answers" for this*

assignment in their own brains. *Selecting random passages or merely summarizing the events that occur in the books will result in a grade of 'C' or lower. Teachers are looking for your own unique reflections, not a "correct answer."*

### **Descriptions of Summer Reading Books:**

Thoughtfully consider which book(s) you choose to read. Some of the selections on the list may include objectionable language and/or realistic situations that may make some readers uncomfortable. We ask that parents guide your student in his or her selection and encourage the student to complete the work honestly and carefully. Students will have the opportunity to discuss the novels with the teacher and fellow students when school resumes this fall.

#### ENGLISH II

---

##### ***Kon-Tiki* by Thor Heyerdahl (Nonfiction)**

Norwegian explorer and writer Thor Heyerdahl had a theory that the islands in the South Pacific were settled by people from distant South America, who got there by wooden raft. To test his theory, he set out with five companions on a homemade raft to trace the path of those original settlers. A true story of courage and danger, *Kon-Tiki* shows the triumph of the human spirit in adversity.

##### ***A Separate Peace* by John Knowles (Fiction)**

Gene is a lonely bookworm at a boys' boarding school, but his world changes when he's assigned a new roommate, the outgoing, athletic Finny. Their friendship is threatened, though, by jealousy. Gene and Finny's friendship and betrayal mirror the events of World War II that were going on at that time.

##### ***The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan (Fiction)**

Four women from China move to the United States. There they meet, become friends, and form the Joy Luck Club to celebrate the trials that they overcame in China. Their daughters, having grown up in America, have their own problems and often don't understand the Chinese way of looking at things that their mothers have. This story about mothers and daughters will make you laugh and cry.

##### ***Night* by Elie Wiesel (Nonfiction--Memoir)**

Eliezar, a Jewish young man living in Hungary, is taken from his home by the Nazis. He and his father are separated from his mother and sisters and forced to board a train for the concentration camps. There, Eliezar and his father suffer unspeakable horrors and must cling to each other and their faith in God to survive. This true-life story will be one you will never forget.

##### **HONORS ONLY *Twelve Angry Men* by Reginald Rose (Play)**

The entire play takes place in a jury room. The twelve jurors discuss and argue the facts of the murder case, and then they must return a verdict of guilty or not-guilty. The young man who is on trial is accused of stabbing his own father to death. It seems like an open-and-shut case, but one juror doesn't want to rush to judgment. He convinces the others to

talk about the case. Tempers flare and prejudices come out as the twelve angry men decide the guilt or innocence of a young man whose life hangs in the balance.

#### ENGLISH IV

---

##### ***Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen (Fiction)**

Catherine Moreland loves to read Gothic novels about young damsels trapped in dark, mysterious castles full of cobwebs and danger. She gets a chance to go to Bath, a nearby resort town, with some family friends. There she meets the dashing, and handsome, Henry Tilney. When Mr. Tilney and his sister invite Catherine to their home, Northanger Abbey, she finds herself in just the kind of dark, mysterious house that she had always read about. Her imagination gets the better of her, but maybe she can win the love of Mr. Tilney, if she doesn't make too much of a fool of herself in front of him.

##### ***Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad (Fiction)**

Charlie Marlow tells the story of his harrowing journey as captain of a steamer boat. Headed down the Congo River in Africa, Marlow hears stories of a mysterious man named Kurtz, who has "gone native." Marlow finds that the "darkness" that he experiences in the Congo is not just the evil of cruel men who exploit others or the wild savagery of the native people. It's a picture of the darkness in the human heart. "The horror!"

##### ***The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Fiction)**

Sir Charles Baskerville is mysteriously killed outside his home, Baskerville Hall. The only clues left behind are giant paw prints. It is said that the legendary Hound of the Baskervilles killed him. His heir, Sir Henry, enlists the aid of Sherlock Holmes and his trusted friend John Watson to find out if this legend is real and if Sir Henry may be in danger himself. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson must face their fears and solve the mystery of the Baskerville Hound.

##### ***The War of the Worlds* by H. G. Wells (Fiction)**

This science fiction masterpiece was ahead of its time when it was published in the 1890s. This story of Martians invading Earth has become an indelible part of our culture and a metaphor for humans' fears of the unknown.

##### **HONORS ONLY *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw (Play)**

Eliza Doolittle, a London flower seller, wants to improve her place in society. She asks Henry Higgins, the irascible, but genius, linguist to help her get rid of her Cockney accent and speak more "genteel," like a lady. Higgins accepts the challenge on a bet, transforming his "Galatia" into a lady, but unsure what to do with her once he's finished. This is the play upon which the musical *My Fair Lady* is based. (Trivia: Pygmalion was the name of a fictional artist who sculpted a figure of a beautiful woman that he named Galatia. In the tale, he fell in love with his creation, and his sculpture came to life.)

