MUS
Summer Reading List
2019
7th Grade

The lower-school teachers offer reading choices that should prove enjoyable as well as helpful to their students’ growth as readers. Over the summer rising 7th graders should read three books, one required and two chosen from the list. On his honor a student should not select a book that he has already read. Students will be tested on all three books on either the first or second day of class in August.

Required:
*The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Arthur Conan Doyle

Choose two:
*Something Wicked This Way Comes*, Ray Bradbury  
*Peril at End House*, Agatha Christie  
*The Magician’s Nephew*, C.S. Lewis  
*The Lightning Thief*, Rick Riordan  
*The Crystal Cave*, Mary Stewart  
*The Hobbit*, J.R.R. Tolkien

FAQ: How can I remember in August details from a novel I read in June?

Answer: To read your teachers’ answer to this question, please click here if viewing the reading list online. If you are using a printed copy of the list, please see the last page.
8th Grade

The lower-school teachers offer reading choices that should prove enjoyable as well as helpful to their students’ growth as readers. Over the summer rising 8th graders should read three books, one required and two chosen from the list. On his honor a student should not select a book that he has already read. Students will be tested on all three books on the first or second day of class in August.

Required:
Night, Elie Wiesel

Choose two:
Murder on the Orient Express, Agatha Christie
The Red Badge of Courage, Stephen Crane
All Creatures Great and Small, James Herriot
Pet Semetary, Stephen King
Winterdance, Gary Paulsen
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Mark Twain

FAQ: How can I remember in August details from a novel I read in June?

Answer: To read your teachers’ answer to this question, please click here if viewing the reading list online. If you are using a printed copy of the list, please see the last page.
9th Grade

The 9th-grade teachers offer reading choices that should prove enjoyable as well as helpful to their students’ growth as readers. Over the summer rising 9th graders should read three books, one required and two chosen from the list. On his honor a student should not select a book that he has already read. Students will be tested on all three books on the first or second day of class in August.

Required:
The Phantom Tollbooth, Norton Juster

Choose two:
Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury
Death on the Nile, Agatha Christie
The Great Train Robbery, Michael Crichton
Unbroken, Laura Hillenbrand
Animal Farm, George Orwell

FAQ: How can I remember in August details from a novel I read in June?

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10th Grade

The 10th-grade teachers offer reading choices that are relevant to the study of American literature, as well as enjoyable and helpful to their students’ growth as readers. Over the summer rising 10th graders should read **three books**, one required and two chosen from the lists. On his honor a student should not select a book that he has already read. Students will be tested on all three books on the first or second day of class in August.

**Required:**
*Death of a Salesman*, Arthur Miller

**Fiction**
**Choose one:**  
*My Antonia*, Willa Cather  
*The House on Mango Street*, Sandra Cisneros  
*A Lesson Before Dying*, Ernest Gaines  
*The Catcher in the Rye*, J.D. Salinger  
*Ethan Frome*, Edith Wharton

**Drama**
**Choose one:**  
*The Hairy Ape*, Eugene O’Neill  
*The Glass Menagerie*, Tennessee Williams  
*Fences*, August Wilson

**FAQ:** How can I remember in August details from a novel I read in June?

**Answer:** To read your teachers’ answer to this question, please [click here](#) if viewing the reading list online. If you are using a printed copy of the list, please see the last page.
11th Grade
British Literature

The teachers of British literature offer reading choices that are relevant to the upcoming course, as well as enjoyable and helpful to their students’ growth as readers. Over the summer students of British literature should read three books, two required and one chosen from the list. On his honor a student should not select a book that he has already read. Students will be tested on all three books on the first or second day of class in August.

**Required:**
*1984*, George Orwell
*Richard III*, William Shakespeare

**Choose one:**
*Jane Eyre*, Charlotte Bronte
*Napoleon of Notting Hill*, G.K. Chesterton
*She*, H. Rider Haggard
*Lilith*, George MacDonald
*Three Men in a Boat*, Jerome K. Jerome
*Rebecca*, Daphne du Maurier
*The Fellowship of the Ring*, J.R.R. Tolkien
*Phineas Finn*, Anthony Trollope
*Brideshead Revisited*, Evelyn Waugh
*Decline and Fall*, Evelyn Waugh
*Code of the Woosters*, P.G. Wodehouse

**FAQ:** How can I remember in August details from a novel I read in June?

**Answer:** To read your teachers’ answer to this question, please [click here](#) if viewing the reading list online. If you are using a printed copy of the list, please see the last page.
11th Grade
AP Language and Composition

The AP Language and Composition teachers offer students reading choices that are relevant to the course, as well as enjoyable and helpful to their students’ growth as readers. Over the summer rising AP11 students should read four (4) books, two required and two chosen from lists of fiction and non-fiction. On his honor a student should not select a book that he has already read. Students will be tested on all four books on the first or second day of class in August.

Non-Fiction
Required:
Pilgrim at Tinker Creek, Annie Dillard

Choose one:
Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil, John Berendt
Friday Night Lights, Buzz Bissinger
In Cold Blood, Truman Capote
Between the World and Me, Ta-Nehisi Coates
Columbine, Dave Cullen
Into Thin Air, Jon Krakauer

Fiction
Required:
No Country for Old Men, Cormac McCarthy

Choose one:
The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, Junot Diaz
Crime and Punishment, Fyodor Dostoevsky (Pevear & Volokhonsky translation)
Tess of the d’Urbervilles, Thomas Hardy
The Orphan Master’s Son, Adam Johnson
The Known World, Edward P. Jones
The Color Purple, Alice Walker

FAQ: How can I remember in August details from a novel I read in June?

Answer: To read your teachers’ answer to this question, please click here if viewing the reading list online. If you are using a printed copy of the list, please see the last page.
12th Grade

The teachers of senior electives offer translated works of comparative and world literature that will broaden their students' literary experience. The elective instructors also believe that these works will prove enjoyable as well as helpful to their students' growth as readers. Over the summer rising seniors should read **three books**, one required and two chosen from the list. On his honor a student should not select a book that he has already read. Students will be tested on all three books on the first or second day of class in August.

In addition, seniors are required to write **one essay** in response to one of the Common Application prompts. This **college essay** will be due on the student’s first day of English class. The penalty for failure to write the essay is a zero on a major assignment in English.

**Required:**

**Choose two:**
*Don Quixote*, Miguel Cervantes. Trans. Edith Grossman. *(Spanish)*
*The Cherry Orchard and The Seagull*, Anton Chekhov. Trans. Paul Schmidt. *(Russian)*
*Crime and Punishment*, Fyodor Dostoevsky. Trans. Pevear & Volokhonsky. *(Russian)*
*Brand*, Henrik Ibsen. Trans. Geoffrey Hill. *(Norwegian)*
*Barabbas*, Par Lagerkvist. Trans. Alan Blair. *(Swedish)*
*The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, Milan Kundera. Trans. Michael Henry Heim. *(Czech)*
*Rickshaw Boy*, Lao She. Trans. Howard Goldblatt. *(Chinese)*
*The Gulag Archipelago*, Aleksandr Solzhenitzyn. Author's official abridged version. *(Russian)*

**FAQ:** How can I remember in August details from a novel I read in June?

**Answer:** To read your teachers’ answer to this question, please click here if viewing the reading list online. If you are using a printed copy of the list, please see the last page.
FAQs about MUS Summer Reading

**FAQ:** How can I remember in August details from a novel I read in June?

**Answer:** You should take detailed notes from the beginning to the end of each book. Good note taking is a skill that will be critical to your ability to learn and then to retain information throughout high school and later in college and graduate school.

- Be an active reader. If you own the book, read with a pen in hand and mark it up. If you are using a book that belongs to a library or a friend, you can use sticky notes to mark pages and passages. Write down your reactions, reflections, questions, and predictions.

- Get a notebook for your notes on summer reading. Be organized and purposeful because you want your notebook to prove a useful tool when it’s time to review before the tests.

- Make notes either as you read or at the end of each chapter. You should write pages and pages and *pages* of notes.

**FAQ:** What should I write in these pages and pages and *pages* of notes?

**Answer:**

- Before you start reading, write down answers to the following questions: Who wrote the book? Where did the author live? When was the book first published? Is the subject of the book connected to important events happening in that time and place?

- If reading a work of fiction, you should make note of the story’s setting in time and place as soon as possible. If the setting changes, make note of that, too.

- Write detailed notes about each of the main characters. Questions you might consider: Age? Gender? Race? Class? Profession? Value system? Important or interesting physical traits? Relationship to the other main characters? Strengths and weaknesses of character? Successes and failures? Moral and mental growth or deterioration? Conflicts and the resolution of them?

- Make a list of the minor characters and their relationships to the main characters and story. Consider the questions above.

- Keep a running list of significant plot points (fiction) or events (non-fiction). Keep track of the passing of time in this list.

- Circle words that you don’t know and look them up. Make sure you’ve found the definition that makes sense in context.

- If reading a work of non-fiction, you should also think about the occasion that prompted the author to write about this subject and his purpose in addressing an audience about it. What should his intended reader feel, think, and do about the subject? What kind of authority does the writer bring to this topic?