Summer Reading Tests
English Department
Grades 7-12

Each student must read three books (or four if taking AP11). On his honor a student should choose books that he has not already read. Students will be tested during the first week of school.

Scores will result in an adjustment of the student’s first-quarter English average. For every test a student passes, he earns 1 point added to his quarter average; however, for each test he does not pass, he is penalized 2 points from his quarter average. Thus, a student must pass all three tests to net any bonus points.

- Pass three = +3 points to quarter average
- Pass two = +0 points to quarter average
- Pass one = -3 points from quarter average
- Pass zero = -6 from quarter average

Each test contains 16 multiple-choice questions about facts from the book, mostly related to plot, setting, and character. A passing score is at least 11 questions answered correctly.
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.
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?

**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.
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.

**Required:**
*The Stranger*, Albert Camus (French)

**Choose two:**
*The Garden of the Finzi-Continis*, Giorgio Bassani (Italian)
*Don Quixote* (Edith Grossman translation), Miguel Cervantes (Spanish)
*The Cherry Orchard* and *The Seagull* (Paul Schmidt translations), Anton Chekhov (Russian)
*Crime and Punishment* (Pevear & Volokhonsky translation), Fyodor Dostoevsky (Russian)
*The Demons*, also known as *The Possessed* (Pevear & Volokhonsky translation), Fyodor Dostoevsky (Russian)
*Brand*, Henrik Ibsen (Norwegian)
*Snow Country*, Yasunari Kawabata (Japanese)
*The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, Milan Kundera (Czech)
*Love in the Time of Cholera*, Gabriel Garcia Marquez (Colombian)
*Rickshaw Boy* (Goldblatt 2010 translation), Lao She (Chinese)
*The Gulag Archipelago* (author’s official abridged version), Aleksandr Solzhenitzyn (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?