

Wayne Country Day School

Summer Reading Assignment

TO PARENTS:

At WCDS, our summer reading program encourages students to develop a lifelong love of reading by offering interesting and thought-provoking literature appropriate for a young adult audience. Our goal is to introduce students to books of literary merit that are appropriate, thought-provoking, and interesting. Several grade-levels' lists offer classic, award-winning, and nonfiction options. When the option is available, we recommend students and their families explore the list choosing titles that match a student's maturity and parental approval. By accessing reviews on websites such as Amazon.com or <https://www.commonsemmedia.org> everyone can make informed decisions when given the choice to select specific books.

Since each grade level focuses on specific goals that are age-appropriate, not all grades 7-12 will have the same selections (or options) for summer reading. After looking at their grade level list or assignment, students will need to purchase, read and annotate the book(s) they or the teacher choose(s). It is recommended that students give themselves plenty of time, at least two weeks per book for most students, to read and annotate each of their book(s). Please note: **This assignment is due the second day the student's class meets.**

Students are also expected to track their thinking and observations through annotations. Annotations are personal, styles vary between subjects, and no one way works for everyone. For these reasons, please refer to the directions provided on each class's summer reading list. You can also look at the annotation guide posted to the school website for suggestions.

All current WCDS students have received classroom instruction and guided direction on how to annotate and understand teacher's expectations and requirements for annotations. From an instructional position, annotation is a powerful tool for teachers to gain insight into the critical thinking skills of students. **Students can get additional guidance by attending the annotation seminars offered throughout the school year.**

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR NEW STUDENTS:

- If you are enrolled by **June 30**, you will be expected to complete the summer reading by the first day of school. You will be assessed within the first two weeks along with your classmates.
- If you enroll between **July 1** and **August 30** you will have until the end of the first quarter to complete the summer reading. You will be assessed at the end of the first quarter.
- Students who enroll on or after **September 1** will not be expected to complete the summer reading, but should still attend an annotation seminar.
- **All students who enroll during the current calendar year ought to attend at least one annotation seminar during the year.**

TO STUDENTS: Reading and Annotating Your Book

For your summer reading assignment, allow yourself to simply experience the story, characters, and ideas the first time you read through. Some advanced readers may annotate as they read. Whatever your case, you will be expected to go back through a second time (or several times) and annotate for literary components. These annotations afford you the opportunity to think critically about your novel before the school year begins, which will better prepare you for the assessment on the novel(s).

English

After completing your summer reading and annotations, you should be able to:

- Accurately summarize events of the plot (i.e. rising action, conflict, climax, resolution)
- Elaborate on the characterization and development of characters.
- Identify literary elements (figurative language, setting, irony, words with strong connotations)
- Define unfamiliar words, terms, allusions, or concepts.

Biology

You will not be expected to closely annotate but will be expected to write a one-sentence summary for each chapter. In the case the chapter is more than 10 pages, write a 2-3 sentence summary.

It is important to remember: annotation is as personal as reading and there are MANY ways to annotate a book. For example, some people prefer to use colors to differentiate elements, and some prefer to use "Post-its." If you already have a system, feel free to use it.

What your teacher will be looking for is the level of critical thinking that went into your reading. So, whatever system you use, make your thinking visible. Comments and questions in the margins and at the end of chapters also show your teacher your thinking process. Write meaningful questions, comments, and observations in your book, or on a separate journal with detailed page numbers and quotes. **You may be asked to submit your annotations to your English teacher.** You may write or type your comments on an e-reader, but you must be prepared to hand your teacher your device/book for assessment purposes.

Students will be assessed on their individual book (additional grade) **within the first two weeks of school.** The format of this assessment could be an essay or a formal test. This is up to the discretion of your teacher. (If you are a newly-enrolled student, please refer to the "New Students" section above to determine your specific assessment requirements.)

TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS:

Many colleges now offer annotation seminars for incoming first-year students to review annotation expectations. As a college-preparatory school, WCDS continues to keep abreast of these current academic demands. These expectations in the Upper School summer reading program will arm students with the skills they need for successful college experiences. In addition, each grading period all English teachers in grades 7-12 will require students to read at least one book outside of class. At the end of the year, students will have read a total of five books or more, depending on their class's summer reading requirement. As always, the faculty appreciates the parental support they receive in striving to provide a thorough and successful educational environment for all WCDS students.