



Required Summer Reading for BRCS HS English 2021-2022

BRCS supports reading during the summer! The books listed below are required for the grade or course that students will enter in the fall. Books may be found in the BRCS Media Center (limited copies), at the public library, local bookstores, or from Amazon.com or other online booksellers. Any edition is acceptable. Asterisks by the title indicate it can be downloaded free from Amazon onto a Kindle. The Kindle for PC app is also a free download available for laptop or tablet. Students will be asked to write about these books and to engage in discussion about them when they return to school. Suggestions for preparing are on page 2. Students should report to school with their SR book(s) and their notes.

Entering 9th Grade – World Lit I

Regular and Honors: *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien - The prequel to the *Lord of the Rings* epic trilogy, this adventure story with fairy tale overtones originally introduced Bilbo Baggins, the hobbit, to the reading public in 1937. **Also for Honors:** *The River* by Michael Neale – Why is Gabriel Clarke drawn to the river where his late father rafted? Read to find out this answer as well as other mysteries the river holds. ISBN # 9781401688486

Entering 10th Grade – World Lit II

Regular and Honors: *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle - What's the truth behind the legend of the hound that's haunting the lonely English moors? Enter Sherlock Holmes to find the answer. He is one of the most popular and enduring detectives in literature. **Also for Honors:** *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmond Rostand – The dashing musketeer is desperately in love with the beautiful Roxanne. Convinced she will never see past his appearance, Cyrano expresses his love anonymously by helping his handsome but tongue-tied friend write exquisite letters to woo her. Translated from the French. *Free download.

Entering 11th Grade – American Lit

Regular and Honors: *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller – The Pulitzer Prize winning play that reverses the Aristotelian concept of tragedy as the downfall of a great man through a fatal flaw. The main character, Willy Loman, illustrates the fall of an ordinary man. **Also for Honors:** *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck.

Entering 12th Grade – British Lit

Regular and Honors: *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte – The classic Gothic romance novel that brings together a poor but spunky governess and the brooding, aristocratic Mr. Rochester. *Free download.
Also for Honors: *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde – This witty play pokes fun at the British upper classes and romantic young women. *Free download.

AP English Literature– 2021-22 [This course alternates with AP Language and Composition every other year. Make sure you select books for the course in which you are enrolled.]

***How to Read Novels Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster; *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe and *Man's Search for Meaning* by Victor Frankl.** These books are available in paperback or Kindle. **Also,** choose one novel from the AP List located on the BRCS school website for a book report after school begins.

High School -- Directions to students for reading and note taking:

You will be asked to write about the required books as soon as you return to school. Taking notes on the books will help you remember what you read and will give you something to look for as you read. Use the items below to make notes of essential information on each book to help you write about and discuss the book in the fall. You will turn these notes in at the beginning of the course.

Title: Know the exact title of your book. [Titles of a novel are punctuated by either underlining or *italics*, never by quotation marks!]

Author: Know the author's name and how to spell it. [Authors are referred to by their full name or by their last name after their full name has been given. Never use just a first name.]

Setting: Where and when does the story take place? If the book describes a particular historical period, what is relevant about that period as the background of the book?

Characters: Who are the **main** characters? Consider how the author portrays each. Choose at least three different words or phrases that will give a succinct profile of the character. The words should not all be synonyms of the same trait. For each descriptive word, provide at least one example or detail that led you to decide that the word suits the character

Plot: When you write about the book, you will NOT be asked to give a summary of the plot. To help you remember what you read, however, it might be helpful to make a diagram, a story map, or a plot summary of the major episodes in the story. What, in your opinion, is the high point (climax, or turning point) of the story? How do you feel about the way the story resolves after that turning point?

Theme: Literary works may have more than one theme. Prepare a statement about what seems to you to be the author's most important message in the novel.

Relevance: Even though this book may be about a different time and place than your own, or about characters different from you, what ideas did you gain from reading this book? In what way does this book (through characters, setting, or theme) have anything to do with your own life?

Quotes: Close reading of a book often engages our attention through a sentence or passage that stands out for us in a meaningful way. Maybe it seems funny, or ironic, or instructive, or just beautiful for some reason. Write down at least one quote that captured your attention. Prepare to explain why you chose it.

Zits

