

Dear Parent/Guardian of 11th-12th Grade Students:

A central goal of the English Language Arts department of The King's Christian School is to establish a reading habit in the busy lives of our high school students. Through summer reading assignments, we want to develop reading fluency and stamina, which help students develop confidence, build vocabulary, and improve writing. It is our hope that we can work together with parents to ignite and sustain the pleasure and passion of young readers.

Summer Reading will include one Required Text for each CP class and two Required Texts for AP courses. It will also include one student choice through a list provided by teachers. We believe that, by being able to choose a book to read, students are more likely to read over the summer rather than search the internet for summaries. By choosing a book, students can see that a good book is more than an assignment. It can open minds and provide experiences that they would otherwise never come to know.

The best books challenge our beliefs by helping us see through different eyes – to live different lives. One of the benefits of reading is that it allows us to confront our worst fears and live through them. We would all rather believe that certain circumstances will not happen to us, and, if they have happened to us, we may not want to live through the details in a book. One question these books can challenge students to examine is “how would I react to a situation or a person like this one?” -- an important question that can also lead students to a better understanding of what the Bible teaches us about a variety of people, events, and choices. Students will not be forced to read something they are not comfortable with in a Summer reading assignment, but they may choose a book that contains what is, to them, intense subject matter and that challenges how they view the world. What we want is to nurture each student's willingness to read – for pleasure, for knowledge, for understanding – so that they choose to read beyond assigned reading, and to connect their reading experiences with the beauty, love, and hope of life in Christ.

Because we respect your role as parents and the traditions you hold sacred, we understand your right to more closely monitor your child's choices. You should feel free to contact the teacher to discuss any boundaries you may have set for your child's reading choices, but please know that the teacher will not be able to control what students choose to read. We hope you talk to your children about what their reading selections, and we recommend you read with your child so that you can discuss any concerns about the content and foster a deeper understanding of an author's purpose. If you want to know more about a book that your child is reading, please consult the the American Library Association website (<http://www.ala.org>), Barnes and Noble's website (<http://www.barnesandnoble.com>), or contact your child's teacher.