

Denton Calvary Academy Summer Reading Program, Grades 10-12

Dear Calvary Students and Parents,

At Denton Calvary Academy, summer reading is a valuable extension of our academic program, encouraging students to keep thinking, questioning, and learning even while they are away from school. In preparation for the next school year, all secondary students will read at least one book during the summer break. Our summer reading program exists to meet two key goals.

First, we wish to help students prepare for the challenges of a new academic year. Research has shown a direct correlation between reading and academic success, and as educators we have personally witnessed the value of fostering a student's reading skills. The ability to read with fluency and good comprehension is essential in all areas of study, and reading during the summer months helps students to maintain this ability.

Second, we wish to encourage students to read for enjoyment. In order to meet this goal, we allow students to choose from a substantial list of literary masterpieces, ranging from the Renaissance to the 20th century, that encompass a wide variety of topics, themes, and genres. We hope that the broad array of available choices will lead students to discover new genres, authors, and topics that suit their individual interests, and that these discoveries will lay the foundation for a lifelong love of reading.

Please review the list of instructions for students on the next page before choosing a book, and contact us if you have any questions. Thank you for partnering with us to make this program successful.

Have a wonderful summer!

Stacey Baxter, Principal
Amanda Yanowski, English Department Head

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Instructions for Students

- Choose a book from the attached list for the appropriate level. For example, if you plan to enroll in English IV next year, choose from the English IV list.
- **Choose a book that you have not read before.**
- One of the goals of this program is enjoyment, so **choose a book that interests you.** Read the description on the back of the book (or the product description on amazon.com) before deciding to read it. You can also ask your parents and teachers for recommendations.
- Books marked with an asterisk (*) contain mature subject matter. If you wish to read one of these selections, please ask for your parents' approval.
- If you do not see a book on the list that interests you, your parent may approve a substitution on a comparable difficulty level. Your parent's reason and rationale for the substitution must be written out, signed, and stapled to your summer reading worksheet. Your English teacher for the next school year will contact your parent to confirm that he or she approved the substitution.
- We encourage you to discuss your reading with your parents. What interesting issues are raised by the book you chose? What messages are conveyed? Are these issues and messages relevant to your life? Take this opportunity to discuss these issues with your family.
- Complete the attached summer reading worksheet for the appropriate level, and sign at the bottom to confirm that you have read your book in its entirety.
- Ask your parent to sign your worksheet to confirm that you have read the book in its entirety.
- Bring your worksheet to class on the first day of the next school year.

Summer Reading List for Grade 11

Students entering Grade 11 will choose one book from this list.

- **All Quiet on the Western Front**
Erich Maria Remarque
ISBN: 0449213943
Considered one of the greatest war stories ever written, Remarque's 1929 masterpiece tells the story of young Paul Baumer, who enlists in the German Army in World War I and takes place with his comrades in the trenches.
- **East of Eden**
John Steinbeck
ISBN: 0140186395
This sprawling and often brutal novel, set in the rich farmlands of California's Salinas Valley, follows the intertwined destinies of two families--the Trasks and the Hamiltons--whose generations helplessly reenact the fall of Adam and Eve and the poisonous rivalry of Cain and Abel.
- **The Great Gatsby**
F. Scott Fitzgerald
ISBN: 0743273567
Nick Carraway, fascinated with the enormous wealth of his mysterious neighbor, Jay Gatsby, finds himself swept up in the lavish lifestyle of Long Island society during the Jazz Age.
- **The Joy Luck Club***
Amy Tan
ISBN: 0143038095
In 1949, four Chinese women begin meeting in San Francisco for fun. Nearly 40 years later, their daughters continue to meet as the Joy Luck Club.
- **Profiles in Courage**
John F. Kennedy
ISBN: 1435120876
During 1954-1955, John F. Kennedy, then a U.S. Senator, chose eight of his historical colleagues to profile for their acts of astounding integrity in the face of overwhelming opposition. These heroes include John Quincy Adams, Daniel Webster, Thomas Hart Benton, and Robert A. Taft.
- **The Things They Carried**
Tim O'Brien
ASIN: B001H1UW7Q
Based on the author's own experiences in the Vietnam War, this book describes thirteen soldiers and the things they carried with them through the jungle.
- **Slaughterhouse-Five***
Kurt Vonnegut
0385333846
Billy Pilgrim becomes unstuck in time after he is abducted by aliens from the planet Tralfamadore. In a plot-scrambling display of virtuosity, we follow Pilgrim simultaneously through all phases of his life, concentrating on his (and Vonnegut's) shattering experience as an American prisoner of war who witnesses the firebombing of Dresden.

4. Give the **setting** of the book. Include the time and place in which the action occurs.

5. Describe the **main conflict** of the book.

6. Describe how the main conflict is **resolved**.
