

Denton Calvary Academy Summer Reading Program, Grades 7-8

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 variety of summer reading selections, including adventure stories, mysteries, historical fiction novels, romances, and science fiction/fantasy novels. We hope that the wide range 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 parents on the next page before allowing your child to choose 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!

Cheryl Crouch, English Department Head

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Instructions for Parents

1. Ask your student to choose a book from the attached list for the appropriate grade level. For example, if your student will be in 7th grade next year, he or she will choose from the 7th grade list.
 - a. **Your student should choose a book that he or she has not read before.**
 - b. Remember, enjoyment is one of the goals of this program, so please allow your student to choose a book based on his or her own interests.
 - c. Note that parental guidance is suggested for certain titles on the 7th and 8th grade lists. These titles may or may not be appropriate for your child's maturity level. You know your student best, so please prayerfully consider whether you wish to allow him or her to read a PG-rated book.
 - d. If you wish, you may permit your student to read an alternate selection on a comparable difficulty level. Your reasons and rationale for doing so must be written out, signed, and stapled to your student's summer reading worksheet (#3).
2. Discuss the book with your student as he or she reads. We have provided discussion questions for each selection.
3. Instruct your student to complete the assignment and attach and complete the summer reading worksheet.
4. Sign your student's worksheet to certify that he or she has read the book in its entirety. Return this sheet to your student, and instruct him or her to bring it to the first day of school in August. Teachers will collect these worksheets during English class.
5. Encourage your student to keep reading!

Name: _____

Date: _____

Summer Reading Worksheet
Grades 7-8
Denton Calvary Academy

1. **Title** of the book: _____

2. **Author** of the book: _____

3. Sign below to confirm that you have completely read this book for the first time this summer.

Student's signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's signature: _____ Date: _____

4. On a separate sheet of paper, type BOTH of the following:

- A 5 – 7 sentence plot summary of the book. Be sure to include the title and author and the most important points. Do not get too distracted with insignificant details.
- A 3 - 5 sentence review of the book. Be sure to include the title and author and your favorite or least favorite things about the book. Share whether you would or would not recommend it to other readers your age and include specific reasons.

5. Staple this sheet to the summary and review and bring it to your English class on the first day of school in August.

Summer Reading List for Grade 8

Students entering Grade 8 will choose one book from this list.

Book	Description	Topics for Family Discussion
<p>Little Women (Alcott)</p> <p>ISBN-10: 0451529308</p>	<p>In picturesque nineteenth-century New England, tomboyish Jo, beautiful Meg, fragile Beth, and romantic Amy come of age while their father is off to war.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which character do you identify with the most? Why?
<p>The Chosen (Potok)</p> <p>ISBN-10: 0449911543</p>	<p>In 1940s Brooklyn, New York, an accident throws Reuven Malther and Danny Saunders together. Despite their differences, the young men become fast friends.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who are your closest friends? Why? • How could you benefit from developing friendships with those who are different from you?
<p>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (Kamkwamba, William)</p> <p>ISBN-10: 9780545591881</p>	<p>William, who eventually invented a windmill, recalls his childhood in Malawi, where magic is considered more important than science.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why was staying in school so important to William? • How does having money or not having money change the type of education available to people in Malawi and around the world?
<p>The Time Machine (Wells)</p> <p>ISBN-10: 0141439971</p>	<p>A scientist propels himself into the year 802,701 A.D., where he meets a beautiful, elfin race of people called the Eloi. When the scientist's time machine vanishes, he must face the dark, sinister Morlocks in order to return to his own era.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the benefits of living in the Eloi society? What are the drawbacks? Are the drawbacks worth the benefits? • What are the weaknesses of the Eloi? How can you avoid developing similar weaknesses?
<p>20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (Verne)</p> <p>ISBN-10: 140272599X</p>	<p>Professor Aronnax explores the hidden wonders of the deep sea, including the lost city of Atlantis, sunken battleships, and a giant, deadly squid.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you think that Captain Nemo is a villain? Why or why not? • Why does Captain Nemo shout, "O almighty God! Enough! Enough!" near the end of the book?
<p>(List continues on next page.)</p>		

<p>The Hound of the Baskervilles (Doyle)</p> <p>ISBN-10: 0794505740</p>	<p>What could be behind the mysterious deaths at Baskerville Hall? It's up to Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson to solve the mystery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you think it is possible to become as observant as Sherlock Holmes was? Discuss whether his reasoning methods can be applied in everyday life.
<p>Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm (Wiggin)</p> <p>ISBN-10: 1603400672</p>	<p>When Rebecca comes from the chaotic family farm to live with her aunts in Riverboro, strict Miranda and gentle Jane don't know how to cope with a wild and zestful ten-year-old.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebecca has a profound influence on the lives of others. Who has influenced your own life, and how?
<p>Kildee House (Montgomery)</p> <p>ISBN – 10:0802773885</p>	<p>Jerome Kildee wants to be a hermit, so he builds a house against a giant redwood. Unfortunately, his animal neighbors are even more interfering than humans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where is your favorite place to enjoy nature? • Jerome, Emma Lou, and Donald work together toward a goal and learn to appreciate each other. Have you ever worked with someone and learned to like them more?
<p>Miracles on Maple Hill (Sorenson)</p> <p>ISBN – 10: 0152545611</p>	<p>Marly's father has returned from the war tired and cross. The family moves to their Grandma's old house in the country, and the miracles of nature work a miracle for their family.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Chris impacts many lives with his kindness. Do you know anyone like Mr. Chris? • Nature has a powerful impact on Marly's family. Have you ever been influenced by nature?