

## **Denton Calvary Academy Summer Reading Program, Grades 6-8**

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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!

Stacey Baxter, Principal  
Amanda Yanowski, 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade next year, he or she will choose from the 6<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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 and sign the attached 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!



## Summer Reading List for Grade 6

Students entering Grade 6 will choose one book from this list.

Book	Description	Topics for Family Discussion
<p>Calico Captive (Speare)</p> <p>ISBN-10: 0618150765</p>	<p>Miriam Willard is a teenager in love. The handsome Phineas Whitney promises to call on her before he leaves for Harvard, but before his next visit, Indians raid her family's home, capturing them all and dragging them deep into the forest. How will they survive?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you think Miriam is courageous? Why?</li> <li>• Describe a time in your life when you had to be courageous.</li> </ul>
<p>The Call of the Wild (London)</p> <p>ISBN-10: 1580495842</p>	<p>A dog named Buck is stolen from his home in the Santa Clara Valley of California, and taken to the Alaskan gold fields to be a sled dog. This story follows Buck as he moves from owner to owner.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the “call of the wild”? How does it affect Buck's behavior throughout the novel?</li> </ul>
<p>The Loner (Wier)</p> <p>ISBN-10: 0590443526</p>	<p>The boy with no name doesn't remember his past; all he knows is that he has to survive, and that means picking fruit on various farms across the southwest. Then he finds a loving home and realizes he is no longer a loner.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have you ever felt alone? When?</li> <li>• What does the Bible tell us to do when we feel alone?</li> </ul>
<p>The Monk Who Shook the World (Davey)</p> <p>ISBN-10: 0875086144</p>	<p>A biography of Martin Luther, a hero of the Christian faith.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What was so important about Martin Luther's life?</li> <li>• What will you do when the time comes for you to stand up for your beliefs?</li> </ul>
<p>Number the Stars (Lowry)</p> <p>ISBN-10: 0440227534</p>	<p>Ten-year-old Annemarie Johansen is caught up in the events surrounding the rescue of the Danish Jews during World War II. She and her family risk their lives to help Annemarie's best friend escape from the Nazis. Based on a true story.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does it mean to be a true friend? Do you think you are a true friend?</li> <li>• How does Christ tell us to treat those who are in need? How much would you be willing to sacrifice to help someone in need?</li> </ul>
<p>The Phantom Tollbooth (Juster)</p> <p>ISBN-10: 0394815009</p>	<p>A bored young boy named Milo drives through a magic tollbooth. He finds himself in the Kingdom of Wisdom, where he accepts a quest to rescue the princesses of the kingdom.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is wisdom? How can we gain it (Proverbs 1)?</li> <li>• What is the most difficult task you have ever had to accomplish? How did you feel when you accomplished that task?</li> </ul>