

Denton Calvary Academy Summer Reading Program, Grades 6-8

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!

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 6th grade next year, he or she will choose from the 6th 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 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 8

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

Book	Description	Topics for Family Discussion
Little Women (Alcott) ISBN-10: 0451529308	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Which character do you identify with the most? Why?
The Chosen (Potok) ISBN-10: 0449911543	In 1940s Brooklyn, New York, an accident throws Reuven Malther and Danny Saunders together. Despite their differences, the young men become fast friends.	<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?
The Time Machine (Wells) ISBN-10: 0141439971	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.	<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?
The Robe (Douglas) ISBN-10: 0395957753	A Roman soldier, Marcellus, wins Christ's robe as a gambling prize. He then sets forth on a quest to find the truth about the Nazarene who wore this robe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What does Marcellus learn about Christ on his journey?• What have your own life experiences taught you about Christ?
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (Verne) ISBN-10: 140272599X	Professor Aronnax explores the hidden wonders of the deep sea, including the lost city of Atlantis, sunken battleships, and a giant, deadly squid.	<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?
The Hound of the Baskervilles (Doyle) ISBN-10: 0794505740	What could be behind the mysterious deaths at Baskerville Hall? It's up to Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson to solve the mystery.	<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?
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