

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. **Note: Work must be the student's own, based on his or her reading. Information taken from the internet or generated by AI technology is plagiarized and will receive a zero and disciplinary action.**
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. Note: Work must be the student's own, based on his or her reading. Information taken from the internet or generated by AI technology is plagiarized and will receive a zero and disciplinary action.

6. Staple this sheet to the summary and review and bring it to your English teacher on the first day of school.

Summer Reading List for Grade 7

Students entering Grade 7 will choose one book from this list.

| Book | Description | Topics for family discussion |
|--|--|--|
| <p><i>Hatchet</i> (Paulsen) ISBN-10: 1416936475</p> | <p>On a trip to the Canadian oilfields to spend the summer with his dad, Brian becomes stranded in the wilderness. He faces many dangers while fighting to survive.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian must think carefully and make good decisions in order to survive. What are some of the best decisions he makes? What are the worst decisions? |
| <p><i>Souder</i> (Armstrong) ISBN-10: 0061442038</p> | <p>A black sharecropper's family is poor and hungry. When the sharecropper is arrested for stealing, his family struggles to get by. To make matters worse, the family dog, Souder, has disappeared.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What challenges does this family have to overcome? How do they overcome those challenges? • What challenges have you overcome in your life? |
| <p><i>The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle</i> (Avi) ISBN-10: 0380728850</p> | <p>In 1832, Charlotte is returning to her family in America from her school in England aboard a seedy ship headed by a cruel captain. Charlotte gets caught in a feud between the captain and the mutinous crew.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is justice? How do Charlotte's ideas about justice change throughout the story? |
| <p><i>Caddie Woodlawn</i> (Brink) ISBN-10: 1416940286</p> | <p>In 1864, 11-year-old Caddie and her family live on the Wisconsin prairie. Caddie is a tomboy, much to her mother's dismay, and frequently finds adventure and trouble.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caddie is proud to be different from other girls. What makes her different? • What makes you different from others your age? Are you proud of these unique qualities? |
| <p><i>Heidi</i> (Spyri) ISBN-10: 014132256X</p> | <p>Heidi is an orphan who can't seem to find a place to call home.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As an orphan, Heidi sometimes feels alone in the world. Have you ever felt alone? When? • What does the Bible tell us to do when we feel alone? |
| <p><i>Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH</i> (O'Brien) ISBN-10: 0689862202</p> | <p>There's something strange about the rats living under the rosebush at the Fitzgibbon farm. Mrs. Frisby, a widowed mouse with a sick child, must turn to these unusual creatures for assistance.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Frisby must seek help from those who are different from her. Have you ever tried to befriend someone who is different from you? When? What happened? |

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| <p><i>Captains Courageous</i> (Kipling) ISBN-10: 1406819034</p> | <p>While traveling on an ocean liner, Harvey, the arrogant, pampered son of a millionaire, falls overboard. The captain of a small fishing boat rescues Harvey and makes him a member of the crew. Harvey has many adventures while learning to be a fisherman.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does Harvey change over the course of the novel? Do you think these changes are positive or negative? • How have you changed over the past year? Are these changes positive or negative? |
| <p><i>The Wheel on the School</i> (DeJong) ISBN – 10: 0064400121</p> | <p>The schoolchildren of a small Dutch fishing village set out to bring storks back to their village. Their quest involves, and eventually transforms, their tiny corner of the world.</p> | <p>What steps do the children take to attract storks to Shora?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do they learn about each other as they work? • What do they learn about the adults in Shora? • Have you ever had a dream which seemed impossible? Did it come true? |