

ACA Summer Reading Initiative - 2022

• High School, Grades 9-12 •

Rationale:

Summer reading provides all students the opportunity to enjoy books in a relaxed and leisurely setting while developing a lifelong love of reading. At American Christian Academy, we encourage all students and their families to engage in reading together this summer by exploring books of all kinds for both information and enjoyment.

Research has shown that students who read during the summer months retain more learning and move into the new school year more prepared than those students who do not engage in reading. In fact, numerous studies have shown that reading over the summer prevents “summer reading loss,” which can be a cumulative loss affecting a student's reading comprehension throughout their academic career. This is due in part to the fact that children don't easily “catch up” on their lost reading skills in the fall, especially when classes begin with an assumption of appropriate, grade-level reading skills. By the end of 6th grade, children who lose reading skills over the summer are potentially two years behind their classmates! For this reason, it is important that all students continue to pursue this essential academic skill.

Who Participates in Summer Reading?

- **Currently Enrolled Students** – All currently enrolled ACA students are required to participate in the Summer Reading Initiative
 - **AP Students** - Students enrolled in AP English also have a summer reading assignment. This assignment differs from the one outlined below and CAN BE FOUND ON THE ACA WEBSITE. If you have any questions about the AP English summer reading assignments, please contact Mr. Reed (jreed@acacademy) for further information.
 - **Dual Enrollment / Online English Students** – It is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that dual credit and online students participate in the same summer reading assignments as their peers. While students who remain in dual credit/online English classes will not be assessed, students who transfer from dual credit/online English classes to a regular English classroom will be held to the same summer reading expectations and due dates as their peers. Reading along with your peers will ensure that you are prepared in the event of a needed classroom change.
- **New Students** – New students are also required to participate in the ACA Summer Reading Initiative, though the assignment may be modified depending on the date of enrollment at ACA. Once you have registered, please reach out immediately to your English teacher to determine the scope of your summer reading assignment.

Summer Assignment Overview:

1. Students entering grades 9-12 are required to **READ** one assigned novel, which differs based on the grade a student will be entering in the upcoming school year. The list of grade-level assignments can be found below.
2. While reading their assigned novel, students must also **ANNOTATE**. An annotation guide is provided at the end of this document. Please read and follow the guidelines CAREFULLY, as students WILL be graded based on their adherence to the instructions!
3. Students are also required to **EARN** 27 AR points throughout the summer. Students may earn these points by testing on the required summer novel as well as any other books of interest (though the books must be of appropriate AR level). Students will take AR tests at ACA and earn points towards their 27-point goal.

Summer Reading Assessments:

At the start of the upcoming school year, students will be assessed in their English classes on the summer reading assignments. They will receive the following grades:

1. Annotation of required novel, graded and entered at twice the standard quiz value
 - * Students are required to annotate a novel that **has no previous annotations in it**. It is **highly recommended** that students purchase a new copy of their assigned book.

- * The standard value of a quiz may differ from teacher-to-teacher. Establishing the annotation grade as double the standard quiz value ensures this assignment is weighted equally for all high-school students
- 2. Multiple-Choice Test on required summer reading, entered as a 100-point test grade
- 3. In-Class Essay on the required summer reading, entered as a 100-point test grade
- 4. Required AR Points, calculated based on percentage of completion, and entered as a 50-point test grade

Assigned Novels:

Required novels differ based on grade level. Students should identify their required novel in the chart below based on the grade level they will be ENTERING in the upcoming school year.

If you are ENTERING...	...your REQUIRED summer novel is:
9 th Grade	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee
10 th Grade - Regular	<i>Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i> by Robert Louis Stevenson AND <i>Pygmalion</i> by George Bernard Shaw
10 th Grade – Pre-AP	<i>Lord of the Flies</i> by William Golding
11 th Grade	<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> by John Steinbeck
12 th Grade	<i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> by Oscar Wilde
11 th /12 th Grade AP English	Your assignment can be found on the ACA website

Summer AR Testing: Dates and Locations

Students are encouraged to read regularly throughout the summer and to take AR tests as quickly as possible after completing a novel. This will ensure that the material is fresh in a student’s mind, helping students earn as many points as possible on their AR tests. Please read the following information for detailed information regarding AR testing.

- Summer Initiative Testing Dates:
 - To be counted towards the **summer** term, AR tests MUST be taken between **Tuesday, May 31st and Wednesday, July 27th**
 - AR tests taken **AFTER July 27th** will be counted towards the **2022-2023 school term** and **WILL NOT be considered part of the required 27 summer AR points.**
- AR Testing Locations:
 - All AR tests will be given in the school library beginning Tuesday, May 31st. Refer to the schedule sent out by our librarian and posted on the school website for specific times AR tests may be taken.

Please review the above information with your student and encourage him or her to begin reading early in the summer. Procrastination can often be the biggest challenge of a summer reading assignment, leading to unnecessary stress on students and parents alike! However, as there will be multiple test grades based on the required summer novel, we also encourage students to review their novels for a few days before the start of the new school year. This way, the information and ideas are fresh in mind.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate teacher, as clarifying questions now will prevent any issues in the fall. We hope that you and your child enjoy this opportunity to explore new authors and titles, and that through this, students and parents alike develop a greater love for literature.

Happy reading!

- ACA English Department

Summer Assignment: Active Reading and Annotating

What is Active Reading?

Active reading is a style of reading that requires students to be more engaged with the material at hand. By participating in deeper engagement, students are able to pull more from a text and create deeper connections to it.

What Does Active Reading Look Like?

For this assignment, active reading means ANNOTATING, or interacting with a text through margin notes. Think of these margin notes as having a “conversation” with the text. You can deliberately engage the author by asking questions, stopping to argue, offering a compliment, or seeking to clarify an important issue. This helps a reader engage in a deeper reading, which also develops a lasting understanding of the text.

Annotation Procedures:

1. **Your book MAY NOT have previous annotations already written in it**
2. You **MUST** annotate in pen, and it **MUST** be legible!
3. Students are expected to write a minimum of one annotation on every other page of their assigned novel.
4. As you read, interact with the text. Underline important information and quotes that stand out to you, and then add comments explaining **WHY** those passages struck you as important.
 - a. Ask questions – make predictions – write reactions – have a conversation with the book.
 - b. **BE WARNED!** Highlighting, underlining, or circling **BY ITSELF** is NOT enough! **You must add quality commentary for an annotation to earn credit!**

Ways to Annotate:

- Discuss what you think is significant about the book title or chapter titles
- Define unfamiliar words or slang
- Re-write, paraphrase, or summarize a particularly difficult passage or moment.
- Make connections to other parts of the book: predict outcomes, suggest endings, etc.
- Ask questions directly to the author or characters. Identify answers if they occur on later pages!
- Make connections to other texts you've read or seen. This could be movies, comic books/graphic novels, news events, other books, stories, plays, songs, poems, etc.
- Draw a picture when a visual connection is appropriate.
- Make meaningful connections to your own life experiences.
- Identify the author's perspective on a subject; discuss **YOUR** perspective on it, as well!
- Explain the historical context or traditions/social customs that are used in the passage.
- Offer an analysis or interpretation of what is happening in the text.
- Point out and discuss literary techniques that the author is using, like symbols, metaphors, etc.
- Identify important conflicts, and note how they shape the story
- Identify themes, or discuss the way a specific scene affects the theme