

ACA Summer Reading Program

• Middle School, Grades 6-8 •

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.

Assignment Overview:

1. Over the summer, students entering grades 6-8 are required to **read one assigned novel**. At the start of the upcoming school year, students will be given a multiple-choice test on the reading material in their English class, along with an in-class essay. ***The multiple-choice test on the required summer novel will count as a 100-point test grade; the in-class essay will count as a 50-point test grade.***
2. Students are also required to **earn 27 AR points** throughout the summer. Students may earn these points by testing on their 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. At the start of the upcoming school year, ***students will receive a 50-point test grade for these AR points based on their percentage earned.*** These 27 AR points will also count towards the required 2019-2020 AR goals.

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:
6 th Grade	<i>But, Not Buddy</i> by Christopher Paul Curtis
7 th Grade	<i>The Call of the Wild</i> by Jack London
8 th Grade	<i>The Wednesday Wars</i> by Gary D. Schmidt

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. In order to accommodate as many students and parents as possible, ACA will be offering multiple locations for summer AR Testing. Each of the locations listed below will open for summer AR testing on June 5th and will remain open through August 7th.

1. the Library, open every Wednesday from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
2. the Computer Lab, open every Monday from 1:00 pm – 5:30 pm
3. the Front Office, available for students whose schedules cannot accommodate the hours offered above. If an alternate testing time is needed, please schedule with the front office in advance so that an AR test administrator can be available.

PLEASE NOTE:

- To be counted towards the **summer** term, AR tests **MUST** be taken between **June 5th – August 7th**
- AR tests taken **AFTER August 7th** will be counted towards the **2019-2020 school term**, and will **NOT be considered part of the required 27 summer AR points**

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