

## Summer Reading List for Rising 8<sup>th</sup> Graders Summer 2021

Please select **one** volume from each of the lists below (i.e., choose one classic and one modern) to read over the summer **along with the required** reading, *Fahrenheit 451*. You will write a book review about one of the novels you have chosen (not *Fahrenheit 451*). The review should be typed (double-spaced; Times New Roman; 12-point font), using one inch margins. The review must be **at least 2 pages long**. **Please note that students may NOT re-read a book they have previously read.** You will complete a creative project on the second novel you have chosen.

Classic Novels (Please read UNABRIDGED versions.)

*A Room with a View* by E.M. Forster

*Sense and Sensibility*

*Emma*

*Mansfield Park*

*Persuasion*

By Jane Austen

*Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson

*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott

*Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens

*Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens

*The Scarlet Pimpernel* by Baroness Emmuska von Orczy

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* or *The Prince and the Pauper*, by Mark Twain

*The Three Musketeers* by Alexandre Dumas

*Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe

*The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane

*Kim* by Rudyard Kipling

*The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton

*Middlemarch* by George Eliot

*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë

*The Last of the Mohicans* by James Fenimore Cooper

*The Moonstone* by Wilkie Collins

*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

*Journey to the Center of the Earth* or *Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea*, by Jules Verne

### Modern Novels/Modern Classics

\*\**The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* by Alan Bradley  
*The Wizard of Earthsea* (first 3 books) by Ursula K. Leguin  
\*\**The Fellowship of the Ring* by J.R.R. Tolkien  
*Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier  
*Cold Comfort Farm* by Stella Gibbons  
\*\**Master and Commander* by Patrick O'Brian  
\*\**The Beekeeper's Apprentice* by Laurie R. King  
*The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd  
*A Northern Light* by Jennifer Donnelly  
*Wildwood Dancing* by Juliet Marillier  
*Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier  
*Till We Have Faces* by C.S. Lewis  
\*\**Hornblower: Beat to Quarters* by C.S. Forester  
*Death on the Nile* by Agatha Christie  
*Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card  
*The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck  
*God and Generals* by Jeff Shaara  
*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith  
*White Fang* or *The Call of the Wild*, by Jack London  
*The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton

\*\*You may read the next book in the series if you have already read the first.

**Note:** All 8th graders must also read *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury over the summer. We will discuss the novel and take a quiz the first week of school. You will also write your first essay of the year on this novel, so be sure to annotate as you read.

## The Book Review

You need to write a 2-page book review for one of the books you selected from the lists above. There are two parts to this review. Please use the guidelines below to write this assignment.

### Part I: The Synopsis (in two paragraphs)

In the first part you need to write one paragraph in which you describe the setting (time and place) of the novel, introduce the main character(s), and provide a brief synopsis of the plot. Try to pique others' interest, but don't give away the ending. In a second paragraph describe one

significant symbol of the novel. For example, in *The Sword in the Stone*, Arthur's sword is not merely a sword, but a symbol of his power and the right of kingship. Finally, describe two major themes of the book. What message is the author trying to communicate to the reader...the importance of friendship, respect for the environment?

### Part II: The Critique (in one paragraph)

In the second part you will write a critique of the novel. Did the story engage you as a reader? Did the author's style and language help you enjoy the book? Did you connect with the main character? Why or why not? Did the author fully develop the character? Were you able to understand the story in the context of world events? If the book was of the fantasy genre, did the author use good "world-building"? Would you recommend this book to others? Why or why not? (Be sure to write a meaningful paragraph, not just a list of answers to these questions.)

## The Creative Project

Along with the book review on one of your books, you must also complete a creative project on the other. Make sure your project is neatly done and presented in a polished manner. You may choose to...

- Write a song based on the book set to original music.
- Create a short, illustrated poetry anthology (~5 poems).
- Write a children's version of the book and illustrate it.
- Create a game based on the book.
- Write a series of letters between the main character and another character (~5 letters).
- Write a series of journal entries from the point of view of one of the characters (~3 pages typed)
- Build a detailed model based on the book.
- Write a play based on the book.
- Film a book trailer or movie based on one of the books.

**Please note: All assignments will be graded and checked for plagiarism. If one or more assignments are plagiarized, the student will receive a score of "0" and disciplinary action will be taken. If you are in NJHS, the faculty council will meet to decide your status.**