

Franklin Christian Academy
Summer Reading 2011
Eighth Grade English

Each student will read at least two books and complete the following assignments:

1. Complete the Summer Reading Assignment handout for the required reading AND the choice book (two copies of the handout)
2. For your choice book, you will give an oral book report for the class in the first week of school. The report should communicate the plot, setting, main characters, and theme. As part of your report, be prepared to answer detailed questions from your teacher about your choice book.

Required Reading: *Across Five Aprils* by Irene Hunt

Choice Books: Choose a book from the list below. For extra credit, choose two books.

Robinson Crusoe
Flags of our Fathers: Heroes of Iwo Jima
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes
Hound of the Baskervilles
Summer of My German Soldier
Little Women
All Creatures Great and Small
Seabiscuit: An American legend
The Andromeda Strain
Into Thin Air
Christy
Endurance
The Terrible Hours
The Screwtape Letters
Boy at War: A Novel of Pearl Harbor
The Chosen
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn
A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court
The Invisible Man

Name _____

**Franklin Christian Academy
Summer Reading Assignment**

Book

Title: _____

Author: _____

Answer the following in complete sentences:

Describe the setting of the book (time, place, culture):

Give a brief description of the main characters of the book

Briefly summarize the main plot.

**What do you think is the main message the author is trying to send in this book?
(Theme).**

Choose three quotes that demonstrate how the author uses the book to get his or her message across to the reader. When listing a quote include the page it appears on, and 1-2 sentences explaining what it reveals about the overall theme of the book.

Annotation Summer Reading Assignment

Annotate while reading

Annotation simply means marking the text while you read. It allows you to read more closely, to find things faster in the text and to help you transform yourself into an active reader. You will most likely write an essay on the novel, and good annotation will help you find appropriate quotations to support your analysis. It will also help you remember details. In order to read and annotate thoroughly, leave yourself plenty of time.

Annotate each book that you are required to read. There will be a quiz over each book and part of the quiz grade will be your annotation (or take notes in a separate notebook if you use a library book). If you have already read a book, go back and do the best you can with annotation. Here are some guidelines for annotation:

While reading, use a pen or pencil to track the following:

- Circle characters, place names and any references to time
- Underline repeated words and/or images
- Place a question mark next to confusing passages
- Place an asterisk next to anything important (major themes, important statements or characterizations)
- After completing each chapter, go back and write a few facts about the chapter at the top of the page and provide an appropriate title that will help you remind yourself what happens
- Mark and **look up** any unfamiliar words! Note the meaning
- Identify and mark any important figurative language or symbols
- Use endnotes (blank pages at the back of your book) to write down important page numbers, patterns you detect or a list of characters and important events

Prepare for the reading quiz by:

- Rereading key sections that you have marked
- Review the major characters, main events and major themes (for essay questions)
- Annotating the book. A percentage of your quiz grade is based on your annotation of each novel.