

Wayne Country Day School

Summer Reading Assignment

TO PARENTS:

At WCDS, our summer reading program encourages students to develop a lifelong love of reading by offering interesting and thought-provoking literature appropriate for a young adult audience. Our goal is to introduce students to books of literary merit that are appropriate, thought-provoking, and interesting. Several grade-levels' lists offer classic, award-winning, and nonfiction options. When the option is available, we recommend students and their families explore the list choosing titles that match a student's maturity and parental approval. By accessing reviews on websites such as Amazon.com or <https://www.commonsemmedia.org> everyone can make informed decisions when given the choice to select specific books.

Since each grade level focuses on specific goals that are age-appropriate, not all grades 7-12 will have the same selections (or options) for summer reading. After looking at their grade level list or assignment, students will read and annotate the book(s) they or the teacher chooses. Please note: **This assignment is due the second day a student's English class meets.** We recommend that students give themselves plenty of time, at least two weeks per book for most students, to read and annotate their book(s).

Again, requirements are age appropriate and will be posted on each teacher's Google classroom page and on the U/S Student Portal on the WCDS website. This posting will include information already presented to WCDS students in grades 6-11. All current WCDS students have received classroom instruction and guided direction on how to annotate and understand teacher's expectations and requirements for annotations. From an instructional position, annotation is a powerful tool for teachers to gain insight into the critical thinking skills of students. **Students can get additional guidance by attending the annotation seminars offered throughout the school year.**

NEW STUDENTS:

- If you are enrolled by **June 28, 2019**, you will be expected to complete the summer reading and annotations by the first day of school. You will be assessed within the first two weeks along with your classmates.
- If you enroll between **July 1** and **August 30** you will have until the end of the first quarter to complete the summer reading and annotations. You will be assessed at the end of the first quarter.
- Students who enroll after **August 30** will not be expected to complete the summer reading, but should still attend the annotation seminar.
- **All students who enroll during the current calendar year ought to attend at least one annotation seminar during the year.**

TO STUDENTS: Annotating Your Book

For your summer reading assignment, you will annotate your book(s) as you read. Annotation encourages close reading and keeps you engaged in a text by having you record your thoughts during the reading process (and sometimes after). To annotate a text, write meaningful questions, comments, and observations in your book, or on a separate journal with detailed page numbers and quotes. You will submit your annotations to your English teacher. You may write or type your comments on an e-reader, but you must be prepared to hand your teacher your device/book for assessment purposes. You will find specific instructions on each English teachers' Google classroom page and on the WCDS website in the U/S Student Portal Summer under "Other Links."

Obviously, annotation is as personal as reading, and there are MANY ways to annotate a book. For example, some people prefer to use colors to differentiate elements, and some prefer to use “Post-its.” If you already have a system, feel free to use it.

What your teacher will be looking for when he/she collects your books in the fall is the level of critical thinking that went into your reading. So, whatever system you use, make your thinking visible. Teachers will look to see if you have recognized such elements as characters, setting, vocabulary and important information. Comments and questions in the margins and at the end of chapters also show your teacher your thinking process. Again, refer to postings on your teacher’s Google classroom page and the materials in the U/S Student Portal on the WCDS website.

Annotations count as one grade. Teachers grade these on a case-by-case basis since there is no one “correct” way to annotate; however, each teacher will grade based on the following: reasonable quantity, a variety of comment styles (i.e. summary, reaction, question, explanation of literary device...), regularity of annotations, a logical and consistent system to annotate (color coding, numbering, etc.).

Students will also be assessed on their individual book (additional grade). The format of this assessment could be an essay or a formal test. This is up to the discretion of your teacher. **This assessment will occur within the first two weeks of school** (If you are a newly-enrolled student. Please refer to the “New Students” section above to determine your specific requirements).

TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS:

Many colleges now offer annotation seminars for incoming first-year students to review annotation expectations. As a college-preparatory school, WCDS continues to keep abreast of these current academic demands. The changes in the Upper School summer reading program will arm students with the skills they need for successful college experiences. In addition, each grading period all English teachers in grades 7-12 will require students to read at least one book outside of class. At the end of the year, students will have read a total of five books or more, depending on their class’s Summer Reading requirement. As always, the faculty appreciates the parental support they receive in striving to provide a thorough and successful educational environment for all WCDS students.