



# CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

1001 Fort Crook Road North, Suite 200  
Bellevue, NE 68123



May 23, 2018

Dear 8<sup>th</sup> grade Cornerstone Parents,

An important part of our middle school is the summer reading program. Reading is an essential life skill. Therefore, CCS wants to help your student maintain their current reading abilities rather than lose them over the summer months. Continuing to read during the summer will further develop fluency, broaden students reading comprehension, and keep their minds engaged.

In preparing for the upcoming school year in our middle school program, Cornerstone requires all students entering grades 6-8 to read and complete a book report over a book selected from the summer reading list. These books have been chosen to prepare your student for literary studies in the upcoming school year. Below are the requirements for eighth grade.

Students must read a book from the eighth-grade summer reading list and prepare a typed Seven Paragraph Book Report. This report is **due on Thursday, August 30, 2018**. ***This assignment will be graded.*** Attached you will find the requirements and format for your student's assignment. In addition to reading a book for the book report, students need to read a book from the author study list. Students will be studying C.S. Lewis in the early part of the school year, and readers need to be able to give a brief summary of story they read from the author.

If your student has already read stories on either of the lists, it is all right for them to re-read one. Research tells us that when we re-read a story, we can catch foreshadowing that was missed the first time, catch hidden meaning, and even missed plot themes. Re-reading is a very worthy thing.

You can find these books at your local library, on amazon or other online websites. Thank you for encouraging your student to read over the summer and continue to build their reading skills. I encourage you to read these books alongside your student. Doing this can provide gratifying discussion opportunities for you and your student. Enjoy your summer!

Blessings,  
Mrs. Cook

(over)

**8th Grade Reading List (choose one)**

- A Gathering of Days* Joan W. Blos
- Anne of Green Gables* L.M. Montgomery
- Woods Runner* Gary Paulsen
- Any story by Rudyard Kipling, suggestions include:
  - *Jungle Book (Part 1)*
  - *Captains Courageous*
  - *The Man Who Would Be King*
  - *Kim*

**Author Study: C.S. Lewis**

**Novels (choose one):**

- The Chronicles of Narnia series (any one of the seven)**

*(over)*

## Written Book Review Instructions

8th grade: Typed, 1 inch margins, 12 font size, Times New Roman, Double Spaced

### **Paragraph 1**

The book that I read is (title) \_\_\_\_\_. The author is \_\_\_\_\_. The book was published in (year) \_\_\_\_\_. The type of story is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Paragraph 2** describes the setting. This should be no more than 5 sentences. Include a good topic sentence and then tell if it is: city, country, small town, etc. Explain anything special about the setting that helps understand the story.

**Paragraph 3** should introduce the main character. Tell the name, age or school grade, special things about him/her/it looks, how they fit in to their family, etc.

**Paragraph 4** should tell about the main character's personality. What kind of a person is this?—well organized, scatterbrained, careful, determined, etc. When you give a characteristic make sure to tell something in the book that shows (proves) that you are right. What does the person like to do? Do they have some special goal in life?

**Paragraph 5** is about plot. Start with the main problem of the book. Tell about 3 little problems that occur along the way to solving the main problem. This paragraph is no more than 10 sentences long.

**Paragraph 6** tells the climax of the story and the denouement. You must tell the end of the book. How does the book end? With an all finished feeling?

**Paragraph 7** tells if you did or did not like the book and WHY. In this paragraph you need to state what type of reader may like this book.