



CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
1001 Fort Crook Road North, Suite 200  
Bellevue, NE 68005



June 17, 2020

Dear Middle School 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 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Students must read a book from the appropriate grade's summer reading list and prepare the grade-appropriate assignment. This assignment is **due on Wednesday, August 26, 2020**. ***The 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 *assignment*, students need to read a book from the author study list. Students will be studying this author 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. ***Your student will read two books total but will not complete a book report on the author study book.***

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 we 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 and Miss Dick

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Author study: Mark Twain** (choose one: an abridged version is okay to read) *Be prepared for a class discussion in August.*

- The Prince and the Pauper*
- Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*
- The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

**Reading List for Book Report** (choose one)

- The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett
- Lily's Crossing* by Patricia Reilly Gill
- Caddie Woodlawn* by Carol Ryrie Brink
- Old Yeller* by Fred Gibson
- Dragon Slippers* by J.D. George
- Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen

**Written Book Review Instructions on the above book selection**

**Format:** Typed, 1-inch margins, 12 font size, Times New Roman, Single Spaced

Students will write a letter to a friend explaining the book they have just read (approximately one page). The letter must include the following elements:

- 1) title
- 2) author
- 3) main character(s)
- 4) setting --when and where the story takes place
- 5) brief summary
- 6) your opinion of the book

The letter should look and read like a letter. Address it to your friend, and sign it with your first and last name.

## **7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Author Study: Richard Peck** (choose one) *Be prepared for a class discussion in August.*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>A Year Down Yonder</i>      | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Teacher's Funeral</i>                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>On the Wings of Heroes</i>  | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>A Season of Gifts</i>                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>A Long Way from Chicago</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Mouse with the Question Mark Tail</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The River Between Us</i>    |   |

**Reading List for Book Report** (choose one)

- The Legend of Bass Reeves by Gary Paulsen
- Through Gates of Splendor* by Elizabeth Elliott
- The Hawk that Dare Not Hunt by Day* by Scott O'Dell
- The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- The War Horse* by Michael Morpurgo

### **Written Book Report Instructions on the above book selection**

**Format:** Typed, 1-inch margins, 12 font size, Times New Roman, Double Spaced, 5-paragraph book report in the following template:

**Paragraph 1:** The book that I read is \_\_\_\_\_. The author is \_\_\_\_\_. The book was published in (year) \_\_\_\_\_. This story is about \_\_\_\_\_. The type of story is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Paragraph 2:** Describe the setting. This paragraph should not be longer than five (5) sentences. Start with a topic sentence and end with a transition sentence into paragraph 3. Explain where the story takes place, city, country, forest, and any other special details that will help understand the setting.

**Paragraph 3:** Introduce the main character. This paragraph should be 5-7 sentences long. Give age, appearance and tell about the main character's personality. Give a characteristic and prove this characteristic by giving an example from the book.

**Paragraph 4:** Tell the plot of the book by describing the main problem of the story and include two (2) other conflicts that occur along the way to solving the main problem. End this paragraph by telling the climax and resolution of the story. This paragraph should be 7-10 sentences long.

**Paragraph 5:** Tell whether you liked or did not like the story and why. State the type of reader who would enjoy this story. This paragraph should be no longer than five (5) sentences.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Author Study: C.S. Lewis** (Choose any one of the seven books from The Chronicles of Narnia series) *Be prepared for a class discussion in August.*

- The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*
- Prince Caspian*
- Voyage of the Dawn Treader*
- The Silver Chair*
- The Horse and His Boy*
- The Magician's Nephew*
- The Last Battle*

**Reading List for Book Report** (choose one)

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

### **Written Book Review Instructions on above book selection**

**Format:** 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:** Describe 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:** 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:** Describe 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:** Tell the plot of the book starting with the main problem of the book. Tell about three (3) little problems that occur along the way to solving the main problem. This paragraph is no more than 10 sentences long.

**Paragraph 6:** Describe 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:** Tell whether 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.