

Summer Reading is assigned to encourage students to read independently and to practice public speaking skills by giving a book talk. You must choose a book to read during the summer and come to school, with book in hand, prepared to share your analysis and impressions of the book with other students.

A suggested list of titles and authors is attached, but you are not limited to these titles or authors. We encourage you to use internet searches to review the suggested books and to look at other 12<sup>th</sup> grade reading lists. Choose a book that you will enjoy, one which you believe to be of recognizable literary merit, but appropriate to your grade level and personal reading ability and aligned with your family's values. You will also see a list of books which you may NOT choose, because they are often studied in class at MDS. You may NOT read a book that you have previously read and studied in school.

You will give an oral book talk in front of your class. You will be expected to :

- Begin with an attention-getting quote.
- Show the cover of the book and state the title, author, and genre.
- Briefly summarize the plot, without giving away the ending, including
  - Setting
  - Theme
  - Point of View
- Describe a character. Include two or three personality traits and supporting details from the text. (You may “become the character” if you wish.)
- Fluently read a favorite or significant passage (5-10 sentences) from the book, discussing why you chose this passage.
- Share examples of at least three additional literary techniques used by the author.
- Share your reaction to the book, tell the audience to whom you would recommend this book, and explain why.

As you read, you will want to annotate (mark) in the book as you encounter important passages, literary techniques, or significant details, so that you can easily find them later (use sticky notes, or highlight or underline and write notes in the margins). We suggest that you prepare notecards to keep you on track during your talk. You may want to start writing these notes as you read during the summer.

When you come to school in August, you must have your book with you. You should have marked in the book. If you have prepared note cards, bring them. Your teacher will give you a specific rubric to follow as you prepare the book talk and assign a deadline for completion. Your assessment will be based entirely on the oral book talk, including preparation, content, and presentation style.

In general, students should **NOT** select works typically taught in English classes at Mount de Sales Academy. The list below includes literary works often taught in English courses and students should not select works from this list:

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain  
*The Aeneid*, Virgil  
*All Quiet on the Western Front*, Erich Maria Remarque  
*Beowulf*  
*Brave New World*, Aldous Huxley  
*Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley  
*Death and the King's Horseman*, Wole Soyinka  
*Dr. Faustus*, Christopher Marlowe  
*Antigone*, Sophocles  
*The Boys in the Boat*, Daniel James Brown  
*The Crucible*, Arthur Miller  
*Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury  
*The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald  
*Hamlet*, William Shakespeare  
*Heart of Darkness*, Joseph Conrad  
*The Iliad*, Homer  
*Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, Harriet Jacobs  
*Julius Caesar*, William Shakespeare  
*Lord of the Flies*, William Golding  
*Macbeth*, William Shakespeare  
*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, Frederick Douglass  
*1984*, George Orwell  
*No Country for Old Men*, Cormac McCarthy  
*Oedipus the King*, Sophocles  
*Othello*, Shakespeare  
*The Odyssey*, Homer  
*Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck  
*The Old Man and the Sea*, Ernest Hemingway  
*The Poisonwood Bible*, Barbara Kingsolver  
*The Red Badge of Courage*, Stephen Crane  
*The Road*, Cormac McCarthy  
*Romeo and Juliet*, William Shakespeare  
*The Scarlet Letter*, Nathaniel Hawthorne  
*Seabiscuit*, Laura Hillebrand  
*The Sound and the Fury*, William Faulkner  
*True Grit*, Charles Portis  
*Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Harriet Beecher Stowe

**Suggested Masterpieces from the British and Western Tradition:**

*Animal Farm*, George Orwell  
*The Lord of the Rings*, J.R.R. Tolkien  
*The Invisible Man*, H. G. Wells  
*Pride and Prejudice*, Jane  
*Austen Wuthering Heights*,

Emily Bronte *Heart of*

*Darkness*, Joseph Conrad

Any play by William Shakespeare (except *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, and *Romeo and Juliet*)

*Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, Robert Lewis Stevenson

*Murder on the Orient Express*, Agatha Christie

*Dracula*, Bram Stoker

*Pygmalion*, Bernard Shaw

*Brave New World*, Aldous Huxley

*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Lewis Carroll

*The Inferno*, Dante Alighieri

*Things Fall Apart*, Chinua

*Acebe Robinson Crusoe*, Daniel

Defoe

*Around the World in Eighty Days*, Jules Verne

*Great Expectations*, Charles Dickens

*Atonement*, Ian McEwan

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*, Mark Haddon

*All Quiet on the Western Front*, Erich Maria Remarque

*All Creatures Great and Small*, James Herriot

*The Screwtape Letter*, C.S. Lewis

*The Jungle Book*, Rudyard Kipling

*The French Lieutenant's Woman*, John Fowles

*Gulliver's Travels*, Jonathan Swift

*Jane Eyre*, Charlotte Bronte

*The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Oscar Wilde

*Treasure Island*, Robert Louis Stevenson