

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 9th 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.

The list below is suggested for students entering English I:

Looking for Alaska, John Green

The Help, Kathryn Stockett

The Secret Life of Bees, Sue Monk Kidd

Deadline, Chris Crutcher

Monster, Walter Dean Myers

The Five People You Meet in Heaven, Mitch Albom

The Hunger Games, Suzanne Collins
Ender's Game, Orsen Scott Card
Eragon, Christopher Paolini
The Hobbit, J. R. R. Tolkien
Hope Was Here, Joan Bauer
The Book Thief, Markus Zusak
The Joy Luck Club, Amy Tan
Night, Elie Wiesel
The Old Man and the Sea, Ernest Hemingway
Pigman, Paul Zindel
The Lightning Thief, Rick Riordan
The Invisible Man, Ralph Ellison
The Bean Trees, Barbara Kingsolver
The House on Mango Street, Sandra Cisneros
Dandelion Wine, Ray Bradbury
The Chocolate War, Robert Cormier
The Call of the Wild, Jack London
Farewell to Manzanar, Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston
The Kite Runner, Khaled Hosseini
The Absolutely True Diary of a PartTime Indian, Sherman Alexie I am Malala, Malala Yousafzai
The Perks of Being a Wallflower, Stephen Chbosky
The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood
Water for Elephants, Sara Gruen
Eleanor & Park, Rainbow Rowell
Into Thin Air, Krakauer
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou
The Pearl, John Steinbeck
The Perfect Storm, Sebastian Junger
The Rocket Boys, Homer Hickam
All Creatures Great and Small, James Herriot
Unbroken, Laura Hillebrand
Shoeless Joe, W. P. Kinsella
Friday Night Lights, Buzz Bissinger
The Disappearing Spoon, Sam Kean
A Short History of Nearly Everything, Bill Bryson

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