

## Summer Reading

For your summer reading, choose a book from the list below that follows a character on a journey. If you would like to read a book that is not on the list, please email Mrs. Isch or Mr. Curtis to get approval. You must receive an email from one of us approving your alternate choice of novel before reading. **After you have read the entire novel, type a five-paragraph essay that answers the essay prompt. The essay will be due via Canvas on the first day of class.**

Please note that some books may not be appropriate for all readers. Thus, it is suggested that parents help their students make appropriate summer reading selections. To read descriptions and reviews of all the books, please go to the corresponding parent guides under the book's description. If you are unhappy with a choice, feel free to make another selection from the list provided. When choosing novels, the Bishop Dwenger English Department looks to the Cardinal Newman Society's vision for novels in education, "[Novels should] introduce students to the great conversation of both Western and Catholic culture, providing for basic cultural literacy and offer examples of excellent writing and storytelling." As such, teachers will address issues found in the novels from a theological and moral standing in accordance with the Catholic Church.

**Essay prompt:** Literature often depicts characters caught between who they are and who they can become, especially when facing change. Such conflict can keep a person from reaching their full potential. Using a literary work from the next page, write a well-organized five-paragraph essay describing the main character's struggle to adapt when faced with a challenge and explain its relevance to the work as a whole. Avoid plot summary and instead focus on how the character changes (or even attempts to reject change) over the course of the novel in order to persevere.

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### Book List

1. Tolkien, J.R.R. ***The Hobbit***. 255 p. Bilbo Baggins, a hobbit, becomes a thief for a band of dwarves and soon finds himself in the midst of a war with the evil goblins and wargs, and forced to make a decision between the call of duty and the pull of the simple life.  
**Parent Guide:** <https://www.commonsemmedia.org/book-reviews/the-hobbit>
2. Goldman, William. ***The Princess Bride***. 414 p. Westley, a farm boy, goes off to seek his fortune shortly after declaring his love for Buttercup, the most beautiful woman in the world. Their relationship is put to the test when his ship is captured by pirates and she is summoned to become the bride of the prince.  
**Parent Guide:** <https://www.commonsemmedia.org/book-reviews/the-princess-bride>
3. Martel, Yann. ***Life of Pi***. 336 p. A young man by the name of Pi survives a disaster at sea and is hurled into an epic journey of adventure and discovery. While cast away, he forms an unexpected connection with another survivor: a fearsome Bengal tiger. **Parent Guide:** <https://www.commonsemmedia.org/book-reviews/life-of-pi>
4. Weir, Andy. ***The Martian***. 365 p. The story follows an American astronaut, Mark Watney, as he becomes stranded alone on Mars in the year 2035 and must improvise in order to survive.  
**Parent Guide:** <https://www.commonsemmedia.org/book-reviews/the-martian>