

# CCA Summer Reading

Mrs. Hanley – Grades 9 & 10

Dear Student,

Attached, you will find the summer 2011 reading list for your class. Your list consists of 10 or more carefully selected books. Each book is accompanied by a brief review or description that should provide you with enough information about the plot to determine whether or not it may be of interest to you. Your summer assignment is as follows:

## **The Reading –**

1. Select and read any two books (minimum) from the list.
2. Decide which book you found most interesting (and best understood).
3. Choose one of the book reporting written activities on the attached sheet (the circled numbers are the ones available for you to choose from).
4. Complete the activity *with excellence*.

## **The Book Report Activity –**

1. Regardless of the activity you choose, each activity must be *typed, double spaced, and written in size 12 font*.
2. The activity should reflect careful thought and time spent. By its quality and creativity, it should show that you took the assignment seriously and gave your best effort.
3. Length: there is no set length. Follow the guidelines given in the activity description, and keep in mind that something short and hastily written will receive the grade it deserves.

## **Final Note –**

This may not be the type of reading you're used to, or would necessarily choose for yourself, but pray that God would grant you an open mind as you tackle these books. They're called classics for a reason, and each has something to teach us about human nature and the nature of God. Don't feel limited to the required two – if you have time and the desire, read as many books as you possibly can! Extra reading expands your vocabulary, which leads to better thinking and writing skills. Those skills, in turn, lead to greater opportunities both within school and beyond!

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List

### 1. **The Hiding Place** – Corrie Ten Boom

*Book Description:* Corrie ten Boom (1892-1983) was a Dutch woman admired the world over for her courage, her forgiveness, and her memorable faith. In World War II, she and her family risked their lives to help Jews escape the Nazis by hiding them in their home in Haarlem, and their reward was a trip to Hitler's concentration camps...The Hiding Place tells the riveting story of how a middle-aged Dutch watchmaker became a heroine of the Resistance, a survivor of Hitler's death camps, and one of the most remarkable evangelists of the twentieth century.

### 2. **The Old Man and the Sea** – Ernest Hemmingway

*Book Description:* *The Old Man and the Sea* is one of Hemingway's most enduring works. Told in language of great simplicity and power, it is the story of an old Cuban fisherman, down on his luck, and his supreme ordeal -- a relentless, agonizing battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream. Here Hemingway recasts, in strikingly contemporary style, the classic theme of courage in the face of defeat, of personal triumph won from loss. Written in 1952, this hugely successful novella confirmed his power and presence in the literary world and played a large part in his winning the 1954 Nobel Prize for Literature.

### 3. **The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** – Arthur Conan Doyle

*Book Description:* A colonel receives five seeds in the mail--and dies within weeks. A young bride disappears immediately after her wedding. An old hat and a Christmas goose are the only clues to a stolen jewel. A son is accused of his father's murder. These mysteries--and many more--are brought to the house on Baker Street where detective Sherlock Holmes resides. No case is too tricky for the world's most famous sleuth and his incredible powers of deduction.

### 4. **This Present Darkness** – Frank E. Peretti

*Amazon.com review:* *This Present Darkness*, by Frank Peretti, is among the classic novels of the Christian thriller genre. First published in 1986, Peretti's book set a suspenseful standard in spiritual warfare storytelling that has rarely been met by his contemporaries. Set in the apparently innocent small town of Ashton, *This Present Darkness* follows an intrepid born-again Christian preacher and newspaper reporter as they unearth a New Age plot to take over the local community and eventually the entire world. Nearly every page of the book describes sulfur-breathing, black-winged, slobbering demons battling with tall, handsome, angelic warriors on a level of reality that is just beyond the senses. However, Christian believers and New Age demon-worshippers are able to influence unseen clashes between good and evil by the power of prayer. Peretti's violent descriptions of exorcisms are especially vivid: "There were fifteen [demons], packed into Carmen's body like crawling, superimposed maggots, boiling, writhing, a tangle of hideous arms, legs, talons, and heads." This book is not for the squeamish. But for page-turning spiritual suspense, it's hard to beat.

### 5. **Great Expectations** – Charles Dickens

*Book Description:* No other novel in the English language so epitomizes upward mobility, the rise from poverty to wealth, as *Great Expectations*. Often considered to be one of Dickens's best novels, it tells the story of young Pip who is mysteriously helped by two people: escaped convict Magwitch and the eccentric dowager Miss Havisham. Here is storytelling at its best, alive with bigger-than-life characters, plot twists that turn on a dime, and scenes that burst off the page with color.

## 6. **Pride and Prejudice** – Jane Austen

*Amazon.com Review: "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife."* Next to the exhortation at the beginning of *Moby-Dick*, "Call me Ishmael," the first sentence of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* must be among the most quoted in literature. And certainly what Melville did for whaling Austen does for marriage--tracing the intricacies (not to mention the economics) of 19th-century British mating rituals with a sure hand and an unblinking eye. As usual, Austen trains her sights on a country village and a few families--in this case, the Bennets, the Philips, and the Lucases. Into their midst comes Mr. Bingley, a single man of good fortune, and his friend, Mr. Darcy, who is even richer. Mrs. Bennet, who married above her station, sees their arrival as an opportunity to marry off at least one of her five daughters. Bingley is complaisant and easily charmed by the eldest Bennet girl, Jane; Darcy, however, is harder to please. Put off by Mrs. Bennet's vulgarity and the untoward behavior of the three younger daughters, he is unable to see the true worth of the older girls, Jane and Elizabeth. His excessive pride offends Lizzy, who is more than willing to believe the worst that other people have to say of him; when George Wickham, a soldier stationed in the village, does indeed have a discreditable tale to tell, his words fall on fertile ground. Having set up the central misunderstanding of the novel, Austen then brings in her cast of fascinating secondary characters: Mr. Collins, the sycophantic clergyman who aspires to Lizzy's hand but settles for her best friend, Charlotte, instead; Lady Catherine de Bourgh, Mr. Darcy's insufferably snobbish aunt; and the Gardiners, Jane and Elizabeth's low-born but noble-hearted aunt and uncle. Some of Austen's best comedy comes from mixing and matching these representatives of different classes and economic strata, demonstrating the hypocrisy at the heart of so many social interactions. – Alex Wilber

## 7. **The Light in the Forest** – Conrad Richter

*From School Library Journal:* John Butler, born in a small frontier town, was captured at age four by the Lenni Lenape Indians and raised by the great warrior, Cuyloga, who named the boy "True Son." He grew up thinking, feeling, and fighting like an Indian. Now rescued and restored to his family because of a treaty to return all white captives to their own people, John Butler rebels against this civilization and desires to return to the tribe. Escaping from the family farm in Pennsylvania, he discovers the eternal and irreconcilable conflict between the two worlds. "True Son"/John Butler asks, "Who am I? Where do I belong?" For a sense of history and a sense of conflict between two different cultures, this novel is a masterpiece by one of America's finest writers.

## 8. **The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman** – Ernest J. Gaines

*The Merriam-Webster Encyclopedia of Literature:* Novel by Ernest J. Gaines, published in 1971. Set in rural southern Louisiana, the novel spans 100 years of American history--from the early 1860s to the onset of the civil rights movement in the 1960s--in following the life of the elderly Jane Pittman, who witnessed those years. A child at the end of the Civil War, Jane survives a massacre by former Confederate soldiers. She serves as a steadying influence for several black men who work hard to achieve dignity and economic as well as political equality. After the death of her husband, Joe Pittman, Jane becomes a committed Christian and a spiritual guide in her community. Spurred on by the violent death of a young community leader, Jane finally confronts a plantation owner who represents the white power structure to which she has always been subservient.

## 9. **Soul Surfer** – Bethany Hamilton, Sheryl Berk, and Rick Bundschuh

This is the amazing story of a thirteen-year-old girl who lost her arm in a shark attack but never lost her faith -- and of her triumphant return to competitive surfing. They say Bethany Hamilton has saltwater in her veins. How else could one explain the tremendous passion that drives her to surf? How else could one explain that nothing -- not even the loss of her arm in a horrific shark attack -- could come between her and the waves?

When the first thing Bethany wanted to know after surgery was "When can I surf again?" it became clear that her unfaltering spirit and determination were part of a greater story -- a tale of courage and faith that this modest and soft-spoken girl would come to share with the world. *Soul Surfer* is a moving account of Bethany's life as a young surfer, her recovery in the wake of the shark attack, the adjustments she's made to her unique surfing style, and her unprecedented bid for a top showing in the World Surfing Championships. *SC Book Award Junior Book Nominee, Bethany Hamilton ESPY Award for Best Comeback Athlete*

10. **The Lamplighter** – Maria Cummins

*Amazon.com review:* Second only in sales to *Uncle Tom's Cabin* during the nineteenth century, *The Lamplighter* is almost completely unknown today, its very popularity having been used to condemn it in literary critical circles. It tells the story of the development of a young, orphaned girl into a resilient, capable young woman who gets her man - her childhood compatriot - but does just fine on her own, thank you, until he returns at the end of the book from his quest to make his fortune overseas. When the reader first meets Gerty she is an orphaned hellion, physically and mentally abused by the brutal and miserly Nan Grant: "No one loved her, and she loved no one; no one treated her kindly; no one tried to make her happy, or cared whether she were so. She was but eight years old and all alone in the world." Gerty is rescued by Trueman Flint, a kindly lamplighter who teaches her about love and respect. A second teacher enters in the form of saintly, blind Emily Graham, who brings a reverence for God into Gerty's life. But while both teachers attempt to tame Gerty's wildness, grown-up Gertrude still retains the backbone and energy that made her such an endearing character to nineteenth-century readers. Gertrude's willingness to defy male and female authority, her courage in emergencies, her rejection of suitors, her loyalty to female friends, and her resourcefulness during hard times make her a strong and inspiring woman in any century.

11. **War of the Worlds** – H.G. Wells

*Amazon.com review:* This is the granddaddy of all alien invasion stories, first published by H.G. Wells in 1898. The novel begins ominously, as the lone voice of a narrator tells readers that "No one would have believed in the last years of the nineteenth century that this world was being watched keenly and closely by intelligences greater than man's..." Things then progress from a series of seemingly mundane reports about odd atmospheric disturbances taking place on Mars to the arrival of Martians just outside of London. At first the Martians seem laughable, hardly able to move in Earth's comparatively heavy gravity even enough to raise themselves out of the pit created when their spaceship landed. But soon the Martians reveal their true nature as death machines 100-feet tall rise up from the pit and begin laying waste to the surrounding land. Wells quickly moves the story from the countryside to the evacuation of London itself and the loss of all hope as England's military suffers defeat after defeat. With horror his narrator describes how the Martians suck the blood from living humans for sustenance, and how it's clear that man is not being conquered so much a corralled. --*Craig E. Engler*

**Book Reporting:  
Written Activities** \* Options are marked by grade

These alternative assignments to the standard "book report" can be used for reporting on fiction.

1. Write a skit or short play that utilizes the same main characters as the story. If you wish, you may add a new character to give freshness to the mix, Continue the plot of the original story; or invent a new conflict and resolution.

2. On a 3-inch X 5-inch note card, write a telegram about the book to send to a friend. Include specific things about the characters, story, and setting. Limit the telegram to fifty words by leaving out *ands* and similar, small words so you can say more in a short space.
- \* 6,7,8,9 3. Write a diary as if you were one of the main characters in the book. Tell not only what is happening to you and others, but how you feel about what is taking place. Make a minimum of ten sequential entries of at least five sentences each.
- \* 6,7,8,9 4. Write a letter to the-author of the book. Emphasize the parts of the book you liked best, one part you would change (telling specifically how), and name your favorite character. Tell exactly why you found the character likable and/or, believable.
- \* 8,9,10 5. Pretend you are a book critic and write a book review for a newspaper. Tell the name of the book, its author, something about the main characters, plot, setting, and conflict. Do not reveal the ending, but evaluate the book and the author's writing ability.
6. Rewrite the ending of the story. Be sure it is plausible and different from the one the author uses. Your ending should begin at the climax and take the main characters through to a different resolution or solution to their basic problem.
- \* 6,7,8,9 7. Choose a main character from the book. Write a letter to him or her, giving advice on what he or she should do to solve the conflicts that have been presented in the book. Be sure your advice is different from the way the author resolves the problems.
8. Write a one-page publicity article promoting the book. Be specific, but don't tell the story or the ending. Remember, you are trying to interest someone in reading the book, not summarizing it. Reading book jackets should help you get ideas.
9. Write a one-page biography of a character from the story. Use any and all information given by the author throughout the book. Write the facts about the character in chronological order, even if they weren't presented that way during the story.
- \*9, 10 10. Pretend you are a news reporter assigned to the obituary page. Write brief obituaries about two characters from the book. Give pertinent information about their lives, showing readers what you have learned about them and the legacies they leave.
- \* 8,9,10 11. If the book you read was adapted for television or the movies, write two long paragraphs (one page) comparing and contrasting the book and the television or movie version. In the first paragraph, tell the ways the versions were similar. In the second, tell the ways in which they differed.
- \* 8,9,10 12. In what period of history was the story set? Go to the library and research the era. Add what you learned about the customs, dress, language, and so forth from the book to what you learn from your research. Summarize on one full page the historical period.
13. Search the book for similes, metaphors, or exceptional images the author used. Write them down exactly as stated. Label each with a S, M, or I to show that you know one from the other. Be sure to fill one complete page.
- \* 6 14. Write a one-page summary of the story. Be sure to include the main characters, setting, plot, climax, and resolution, but be brief and to the

point. Put the title and author's name at the top of the page, and put your name at the bottom.

15. Take one interesting incident from the story. Use it as a springboard to write a short story for a young person of elementary school age. Limit yourself to two or three pages.
16. Write one page telling why you would or would not like the main character for a friend.
17. Write one page about one of the characters. In the first paragraph, tell how the character *is* like you. In the second, tell how the character differs from you.
- \* 6,7 18. Compare two books you have recently read. Tell all the ways they are alike. Be sure to list the complete titles and authors.
- \* 6,7 19. Contrast two books you have recently read. Tell all the ways they are different. Be sure to list the complete titles and authors.
20. Outline the book, using main headings such as SETTING, CHARACTERS, PLOT, INCIDENTS, and ENDING for your Roman numeral divisions.
21. Make up a shape poem relating to the book.
22. If you've read a myth, fable, or legend, make up one of your own and tell or read it to the class.

