

The High School of Saint Thomas More

Freshmen Summer Reading 2017

as approved by the administration

Any edition of the summer reading title is acceptable for students to read. They may borrow a copy from the library, purchase a used or new copy, or use an electronic version of the text. The school also has limited quantities of some of titles. If you would like to borrow a title from the school, contact Mrs. Hinkley at khinkley@hs-stm.org to see if one is available.

Why Summer Reading?

Educational research shows that students lose some of the critical reading skills over the summer if they do not practice. Reading as few as six books over the summer can help students retain or even improve their skills in reading!

Here at Saint Thomas More, we wish to give our students a reason to keep reading. Though we won't assign six books for students to read over the summer, Freshmen are required to read one book. This book is chosen by the English department and approved by Father Hoelscher and the rest of the high school administration.

The value of summer reading is that it gives English teachers an opportunity to use these novels to address some of the themes and skills that will be covered throughout the courses they teach. The summer reading book will be tied to an assessment or two in the first few weeks of school, so it is important for parents and students to understand that students' early grades will reflect the amount of care they take for summer reading.

English 9 Assignment for 2017-2018 ***The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*** ***(The Chronicles of Narnia) by C.S. Lewis***

Assignment:

Read the text and enjoy the experience!

While there is no written assignment for you to complete over the summer, you should be ready to discuss the book on the first day of school.

The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe may be seen as "kiddie lit" to some, but that does the novel a disservice. Yes, it is a masterpiece of classic children's literature, but that does not mean the novel is lacking sophistication or literary merit. This novel is a work of quality that explores diverse themes relevant to teens (betrayal, faith, courage, and forgiveness), as well as serving as an excellent allegory of Christian faith. Students of all reading levels will be entranced and challenged by C.S. Lewis' foray into Narnia. To take full advantage of this rich text, students will discuss the text in Theology 9 in addition to English 9. This will serve as part of a cross-curricular assignment between the Theology and English departments.