

Covington Academy

Rising 11th-12th Grade Summer Reading List

Students are required to read at least one book from the grade list they will be entering the 2018-2019 school year and complete the required assignment. All assignments will be due the first week of September. All Honors Literature students must also complete one additional book and assignment. See list below. Each grade level is required to complete the book assignment next to the grade level above the required title listings.

Upcoming 11th grade (Please complete the attached Book Critique assignment based off your selected title)

- In the Time of Butterflies, Julia Alvarez
- A Walk to Remember, Nicholas Sparks
- The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates, Wes Moore
- The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, Douglas Adams
- Trash, Andy Mulligan
- Speak, Laurie Halse Anderson

Upcoming 12th grade (Please complete the attached Book Critique assignment based off your selected title)

- House of Sane and Fog, Andre Dubus
- The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time, Mark Haddon
- As I Lay Dying, William Faulkner
- Brave New World, Aldous Huxley
- The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Robert Louis Stevenson
- Call of the Wild, Jack London

Please see below for Book Critique requirements and details.

Covington Academy

Rising 11th & 12th Grade Book Critique

Please complete based off your required summer reading novel.

All assignments are due the first week of September.

What You Need to Know

1. A book critique is a ***literary analysis*** of the book you have chosen
2. A book critique is your opinion about that the author is communicating through the book and how he or she does so by using the literary elements you have learned about in English classes;
3. A book critique does require you to address the literary elements of the novel, not just provide a plot summary

What Else You Need to Know

1. A book critique is ***not*** a book summary or evaluation
2. A book critique is ***not*** a book synopsis
3. A book critique is ***not*** simply your opinion of whether or not the book is good or bad
4. A book critique is ***not*** what you find on the book jacket or Amazon.com or other book-selling website

Your Critique Should Have . . .

1. A title
2. An introduction paragraph that provides some type of background for your discussion of the book. This should include:
 - a. a biographical note about the author (properly cited)
 - b. background information (again properly cited) of some kind related to the novel);
 - c. a summary of the action of the novel.

You may use your previous research for this information (or even for some of the actual writing)
3. A thesis that makes a literary (aesthetic) statement about the book, focusing on a theme, narrative structure, and/or other literary element of the book
4. Properly structured body paragraphs with ample use of quotes and details from the book that reflect both the thesis stated and the literary elements which support this statement
5. A conclusion that revisits your thesis and provides closure to your critique
6. In-text citations and a works cited page as we have learned this semester providing the sources of the outside information in the introduction and body of your paper. You must cite your actual book with page references for quotes and an entry on the works cited page.
7. Three pages of text, Times New Roman, size 12, double spaced, with 1 inch margins, not including the works cited page.

Sample Thesis Statement

While S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders* is ostensibly about gang violence in a Southwestern city, this realistic novel communicates the commonality of human experience despite class differences.

Through the small-town experiences of a young boy, Mark Twain satirizes the hypocritical conventions of rural American society in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.

Using first-person narration and psychological realism in her novel *Speak*, Laurie Halse Anderson examines the issue of date rape to illustrate the importance of standing up and speaking out in the face of peer pressure.