



CANTERBURY HIGH SCHOOL

2021 Summer Reading Requirements

All students attending Canterbury High School in the fall are required to read two summer books for their English class. Here are the requirements for each course:

Grade 9: Ray Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451* and Alfred Lansing, *Endurance*. Ninth grade English students are required to complete study questions as they read *Fahrenheit 451* and *Endurance*. These questions are posted on the school's web page in the summer reading section.

Grade 10: Mark Twain, *Huckleberry Finn* and Edith Wharton, *Summer*. Tenth grade English students are required to complete study questions as they read *Huckleberry Finn* and *Summer*. These questions are posted on the school's web page in the summer reading section.

Grade 11: George Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty Four* and Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Eleventh grade English students are required to complete study questions as they read *Nineteen Eighty Four* and *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. These questions are posted on the school's web page in the summer reading section.

Grade 12 Vision and Voice: Jay Heinrichs, *Thank You for Arguing* (3rd Edition). Vision and Voice students are also required to complete an independent choice from the class reading list and to complete a reading log and responses for each work. A list of choices and the requirements for written responses is posted on the school's web page in the summer reading section.

Grade 12 Advanced World Literature: Isabel Allende, *Daughter of Fortune*. Advanced World Literature students are also required to complete an independent choice of literary fiction and to complete responses for each work. Guidance for choosing a suitable text and for written responses can be found on the school's web page in the summer reading section.

Grade 12 AP Literature and Composition: Cormac McCarthy, *The Road* and Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*. AP students are required to keep a journal that addresses a series of topics. Instructions are posted on the school's web page in the summer reading section.

Students should be prepared to write about and discuss their assigned works at the beginning of the fall term.

Recommendations for Recreational Reading

The Canterbury English department strongly encourages students to make reading an ongoing part of their summer. Regular reading develops multiple critical thinking skills, increases vocabulary and verbal proficiency, sparks the imagination, provides vicarious experiences, and models a variety of styles of writing worthy of emulation. Accordingly, the high school English department offers the following as additional suggested readings.

Non-Fiction

Brook, Timothy. ***Vermeer's Hat: The Seventeenth Century and the Dawn of the Global World***. Vermeer's images captivate us with their beauty and mystery. What stories lie behind these stunningly rendered moments? Brook offers a remarkable view of a rapidly expanding world. Moving outward from Vermeer's studio, Brook traces the web of trade that was spreading across the globe.

Bryson, Bill. ***A Short History of Nearly Everything***. Bill Bryson uses hundreds of sources, from popular science books to interviews with luminaries in various fields, in order to help people appreciate how we have used science to understand the smallest particles and the unimaginably vast expanses of space.

Ehrenreich, Barbara. ***Nickel and Dimed***. Ehrenreich turns her journalist's eye on the view from the workforce's bottom rung. Determined to find out how anyone could make ends meet on seven dollars an hour, she tries to sustain herself as a low-skilled worker for a month at a time.

Feinstein, John. ***Last Dance: Behind the Scenes at the Final Four***. John Feinstein explores what it means to a school, a coach, and a player to be in the Final Four, or even at The Final. There are moving stories of players and coaches who thought they'd never

make it to college basketball's final weekend, spectacular triumphs of the winning teams, and heartbreaking defeat of those who miss the cut.

Frost, Mark. ***The Match***. Eddie Lowery came to fame as the ten-year-old caddie to U.S. Open Champion Francis Ouimet. Now, in 1956, Lowery has just made a bet with fellow millionaire George Coleman. Lowery claims that two of his employees, amateur golfers, cannot be beaten in a best-ball match. Lowery challenges Coleman to bring any two golfers of his choice to the course at 10 a.m. the next day to settle the issue.

Herr, Michael. ***Dispatches***. Herr gathered his years of notes from his front-line reporting in Vietnam and turned them into what many people consider the best account of the war to date. He captured the feel of the war and how it differed from any theater of combat ever fought in, as well as the flavor of the time and the essence of the people who were there.

Kahn, Roger. ***The Boys of Summer***. This is a book about young men who learned to play baseball during the 1930s and 1940s, and then went on to play for one of the most exciting major-league ball clubs ever fielded, the team that broke the color barrier with Jackie Robinson.



Larson, Erik. ***Devil in the White City***. Larson imbues the incredible events surrounding the 1893 Chicago World's Fair with real-life drama. Larson tells the stories of two men: Daniel H. Burnham, the architect responsible for the fair's construction, and H.H. Holmes, a serial killer masquerading as a charming doctor.

Sklott, Rebecca. ***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks***. Henrietta Lacks was a mother of five in Baltimore, a poor African American migrant from the tobacco farms of Virginia, who died from a cruelly aggressive cancer at the age of 30 in 1951. A sample of her cancerous tissue, taken without her knowledge or consent, as was the custom then, turned out to provide one of the holy grails of mid-century biology.

Stanton, Doug. ***In Harm's Way: The Sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of its Survivors***. The bestselling account of America's worst naval disaster – and of the heroism of the men who, against all odds, survived.

Stevenson, Bryan. ***Just Mercy***. As a young lawyer Bryan Stevenson founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit.

Wallace, David Foster. ***Consider the Lobster***. Do lobsters feel pain? Did Franz Kafka have a funny bone? What is John Updike's deal, anyway? David Foster Wallace answers these questions and more in essays that are also enthralling narrative adventures.

Wilson, E.O. ***The Social Conquest of Earth***. Drawing on his deep understanding of entomology and his extraordinarily broad knowledge of the natural and social sciences, Wilson makes a strong case for the synthesis of knowledge across disciplines.

Fiction

Benioff, David. ***City of Thieves***. Seventeen-year-old Russian Lev Beniov, arrested for looting the corpse of a German paratrooper, is given the opportunity to be released from jail if he, along with a soldier imprisoned for desertion, can secure twelve eggs, to be used in the colonel's daughter's wedding cake. They traverse the dangerous streets of Leningrad in search of eggs, but find much more.

Chabon, Michael. ***The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay***. The novel follows the lives of two Jewish cousins before, during, and after World War II. They are a Czech artist named Joe Kavalier and a Brooklyn-born writer named Sam Clay. Kavalier and Clay become major figures in the nascent comics industry and its 'Golden Age' after they dream up their own superhero.

Clarke, Susanna. ***Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell***. This novel has the cleverness and lightness of touch of the Harry Potter series, but it is less a fairy tale of good versus evil than a fantastic comedy of manners, complete with elaborate false footnotes, occasional period spellings, and a dense, lively mythology teeming beneath the narrative.

Ellison, Harlan. ***I Have No Mouth & I Must Scream***. This post-apocalyptic science fiction short story was first published in the March 1967 issue of *If: Worlds of Science Fiction*.

Ennis, Michael. ***The Malice of Fortune***. Ennis brilliantly recreates the complex politics of early 16th-century Italy in this absorbing and intelligent thriller that teams Leonardo da Vinci with Niccolò Machiavelli.

Heinlein, Robert. ***Starship Troopers***. In one of Robert Heinlein's most controversial bestsellers, a recruit of the future goes through the toughest boot camp in the Universe – and into battle with the Terran Mobile Infantry against mankind's most alarming enemy.

Heller, Joseph. ***Catch 22***. Set in Italy during World War II, this is the story of the incomparable malingering bombardier Yossarian, a hero who is furious because thousands of people he has never met are trying to kill him. But his real problem is not the enemy, but his own army.

Hornby, Nick. ***High Fidelity***. Recently dumped by his wealthy girlfriend, record store owner Rob Fleming finds himself in financial trouble and sets out on a pilgrimage to ask his former girlfriends where their relationships went wrong, and in the process to learn where his life went off track.

Kreiger, William Kent. ***Ordinary Grace***. A story of what tragedy does to a boy, his family, and ultimately the fabric of the small town in which he lives. Told from Frank's perspective forty years after that fateful summer, it is a moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him.

Lahiri, Jhumpa. ***The Namesake***. This story follows a family of Indian immigrants to the United States over the course of several decades.

Lanchester, John. ***The Debt to Pleasure***. Englishman Tarquin Winot reveals the hidden and sinister layers of his past through his meditations on food.

Mailer, Norman. ***The Naked and the Dead***. This novel is a spellbinding account of a platoon of American soldiers in brutal combat to reclaim a Pacific island held by the Japanese and to face the unimaginable, within and without.

Mantel, Hilary. ***Wolf Hall***. A complex, subtle, and darkly brilliant reimagining of the political intrigues in the court of life England's King Henry VIII.

Oates, Joyce Carol. ***Big Mouth & Ugly Girl***. When sixteen-year-old Matt is falsely accused of threatening to blow up his high school and his friends turn against him, an unlikely classmate comes to his aid.

Phillips, Arthur. ***The Egyptologist***. A witty, inventive, brilliantly constructed novel about an Egyptologist obsessed with finding the tomb of a forgotten pharaoh. This darkly comic labyrinth of a story opens on the desert plains of Egypt in 1922, then winds its way from the slums of Australia to the ballrooms of Boston by way of Oxford, the battlefields of the First World War, and a royal court in turmoil.



Quinn, Daniel. ***Ishmael: An Adventure of the Mind and Spirit.***

The narrator of this extraordinary tale is a man in search of truth. He answers an ad in a local newspaper from a teacher looking for serious pupils, only to find himself alone in an abandoned office with a full-grown gorilla who is nibbling delicately on a slender branch. "You are the teacher?" he asks incredulously. "I am the teacher," the gorilla replies.

Remarque, Erich Maria. ***All Quiet on the Western Front.*** The story is about Paul Bäumer, a German soldier who – urged on by his school teacher – joins the German army shortly after the start of World War I and describes the German soldiers' extreme physical and mental stress during the war, and the detachment from civilian life felt by many of these soldiers upon returning home from the front.

Salinger, J.D. ***Franny and Zooey.*** After suffering a fainting spell while visiting her boyfriend at college, twenty-year-old Franny Glass comes home to recover and sort out a number of personal conflicts.

Swift, Graham. ***Waterland.*** A history teacher besieged by a personal crisis and the "phasing out" of his teaching job abandons his lessons to relate tales of Fenland and his family.

Tan, Amy. ***The Joy Luck Club.*** Tan examines the deep connection between mothers and daughters. As four Chinese women meet to eat, talk, and play mahjong, they reveal their secrets, trying to unravel the truth about their lives.

Tartt, Donna. ***The Little Friend.*** A grandly ambitious and utterly riveting novel of childhood, innocence, and evil.

Tournier, Michel. ***The Ogre.*** One of the best novels written about the Holocaust and certainly the best novel that explores the complex and ambiguous nature of evil in the twentieth century. Abel Tiffauges is a car mechanic and amateur photographer who ends up working for the Nazis and kidnapping children for the Hitler Youth movement.

Unsworth, Barry. ***Morality Play.*** In a fascinating view of the times, this story is set in a small town in 14th century England, where a troupe of actors is getting ready to put on a play that will expose the murder that has shocked the town.

Vonnegut, Kurt. ***Galápagos.*** Narrated by a ghost from a million years in the future, this story considers an alternate path for human evolution.

White, T.H. ***The Once and Future King.*** T.H. White's masterful retelling of the saga of King Arthur is a fantasy classic as legendary as Excalibur and Camelot, and it is a poignant story of adventure, romance, and magic that has enchanted readers for generations.

Short Story Collections

Cortazar, Julio. ***Blow-Up: And Other Stories.*** A collection of fifteen short stories by the Latin American author, in which he explores the boundary between the everyday and the mysterious.

Bradbury, Ray. ***The Illustrated Man.*** A collection of short stories by a nameless narrator who meets the Illustrated Man—a wanderer whose entire body is a living canvas of exotic tattoos.

Hemingway, Ernest. ***The Complete Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway.*** Spanning his entire career, these stories display the breadth and depth of Hemingway's understated yet powerful reinvention of American prose.

Lahiri, Jhumpa. ***Interpreter of Maladies.*** Packed with pathos, introspection, and struggle, and joy, these stories examine the contradictions and conflicts faced by Indians and Indian Americans when caught between their roots and the "New World."

Munro, Alice. ***Runaway.*** Extraordinary stories about love and its infinite betrayals and surprises, from the title story about a young woman who is incapable of escaping a flawed marriage, to three stories about a young woman whose emotions complicate the luster of her intimate relationships.

O'Brien, Tim. ***The Things they Carried.*** Related stories, linked by recurring characters and an interwoven plot, recreate an American foot soldier's experience in the Vietnam War.

Salinger, J.D. ***9 Stories.*** Although people disagree on which story is best, each contains elements of the relationship between children and adults, one of Salinger's signature themes.

In Fact: The Best of Creative Non-Fiction. Edited by Lee Gutkind, introduction by Annie Dillard. Presents an anthology of twenty-five creative nonfiction essays of both the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Some summaries are adapted from Amazon.com and Goodreads.