



Logic and Rhetoric School Summer Reading Assignments

Each summer, students at ACS are required to participate in the summer reading program. The purpose of the program is to supplement the curriculum, expose students to quality literature, and cultivate a love for reading. All students are required to complete the reading assignments and will be graded on the discussions and papers. Papers will be turned in on the first day of class in the fall. Discussions will take place within the first few days of class.

Reading books for this summer are listed below, including a link to purchase the book if needed. If you already own a similar copy of a book, there is no need to purchase another copy.

Incoming 6th Grade

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

[Amazon.com: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe: 9780064471046: Lewis, C. S., Baynes, Pauline: Books](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B000APCZ0C)

OR

[The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, The Chronicles of Narnia Commemorative Edition: C.S. Lewis: 9780064409421 - Christianbook.com](https://www.christianbook.com/9780064409421)

Incoming 7th Grade

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

[Amazon.com: The Call of the Wild: The Original 1903 Edition \(Booklover's Library Classics\): 9781399927536: London, Jack: Books](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B000000000)

Incoming 8th Grade

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

[Amazon.com: The Hobbit \(The Lord of the Rings\): 9780618260300: Tolkien, J.R.R.: Books](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B000000000)

Incoming 9th and 10th Grade

Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis

[https://www.amazon.com/Screwtape-Letters-C-S-Lewis/dp/0060652934](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B000000000)

Incoming 11th Grade

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

[https://www.amazon.com/Scarlet-Letter-Dover-Thrift-Editions/dp/0486280489/](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B000000000)

Incoming 12th Grade

Research for your Senior Thesis based on the assignment given in Rhetoric class

6th Grade Reading Assignment

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

Four siblings find themselves in the magical land of Narnia where the evil White Witch has frozen the land in an everlasting winter. When it seems all hope is lost, Aslan brings renewed hope, but with a great sacrifice.

You may have heard this book read aloud to you in previous grades, but now it's time to read it independently and ponder some of the great lessons it brings. Complete the following:

- I. DISCUSSION: Be prepared to discuss these questions and others in seminar in a graded discussion:
 - A. Why was Edmund determined to go to the Witch even though he knew deep down that she was evil? How does this describe our own temptations?
 - B. Why was Edmund's opinion of the queen changed as he spent more time with her?
 - C. When Edmund left to go to the White Witch, how did his siblings respond? How would you have responded if you were his sibling?
 - D. This book is a fantasy, so there are many imaginary creatures mentioned. Describe some of the creatures. Which one is your favorite?
 - E. Should Edmund have been told of the great sacrifice Aslan had made for him? Why or why not?
 - F. Why do you think Aslan said there was no need to talk about what was past?
 - G. How did Aslan's sacrifice make a difference for Narnia? What does his sacrifice symbolize for us?
- II. PAPER: Choose ONE of the following topics and write a 2-3 paragraph response. The paper must be written neatly with your name and date in the upper right-hand corner. It may also be typed.
 - A. The four siblings grow to become better people after their adventure in Narnia. Describe each sibling's character (Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Susan) and how he or she changed by the end of the story. Consider the experiences and other characters that impacted their character.
 - B. This book is an allegory, a story in which certain events or characters represent other ideas. It has Christian symbolism and much of it revolves around Jesus Christ. Write an essay describing different events or characters found in the book and what they or their actions represent.

7th Grade Reading Assignment

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

Buck, a pampered dog in California, is stolen and sold to be a sled-dog in the freezing Yukon. Forced into a life of survival, will he be able to give up his past and learn the ways of the wild?

Complete the following:

- I. DISCUSSION: Be prepared to discuss these questions and others in seminar in a graded discussion:
 - A. What is The Law of Club and Fang? How does it influence Buck's behavior?
 - B. Compare John Thornton and Judge Miller as Buck's masters. Which one is the better master?
 - C. What is "the call of the wild?" How is Buck affected by the call?
 - D. Describe the actions of Hal, Charles, and Mercedes. What consequences do their choices have on the animals in their care?
 - E. What keeps Buck from following the wolf he meets? Was it a wise decision?
 - F. Note that the man in the red sweater was never named. What is the symbolism of this man? Why do you think the author made his sweater the color red?
 - G. One of the themes of the book is "the survival of the fittest." How does this describe Buck's experience?
- II. PAPER: Write a 2-3 paragraph response to the book about the following topic. Be sure to follow the format described below.

Buck's journey took him from a pet to a work dog to a leader in the wild. Describe how Buck's character changes at each stage in his journey in order to adapt to his changing environment. Was Buck becoming stronger or weaker with each change? Did the changes make him a better dog?

The paper should be typed in 12 pt Times New Roman font and double spaced with the following MLA format double-spaced in the upper left-hand corner of the first page:

John Smith

Mrs. Logan (or Bible teacher, if known)

Bible

1 August 2024 (be sure all these lines are double-spaced)

You may include a title. If so, do not underline it or put it in quotes. Double-space after the title, then start the first paragraph. All paragraphs should be indented (use the tab key).

8th Grade Reading Assignment

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

Bilbo Baggins, a hobbit, is asked by Gandalf to join a group of dwarves to raid a treasure guarded by Smaug. Bilbo joins the journey, not realizing the dangers he will encounter.

Complete the following:

- I. DISCUSSION: Be prepared to discuss these questions and others in seminar in a graded discussion:
 - A. This book was written in the period between World War I and World War II. Tolkien wrote it as an escape from the concerns of war. How is the book a way to escape the worries of the world?
 - B. How is Gandalf a mentor for the dwarves and Bilbo?
 - C. Did Bilbo do the right thing by giving up the comforts of home to find adventure?
 - D. Language and word usage is used as a weapon throughout the story. How does Bilbo use language against his enemies?
 - E. How does the journey impact Bilbo? Describe his character before the adventure as compared to his character after the adventure.
 - F. How does the presence (or lack thereof) of Gandalf affect the characters' actions?
 - G. Thorin is the official leader of the dwarves, but by the end of the novel, even he is looking to Bilbo as a leader. Compare Thorin to Bilbo.
- II. PAPER: Write a 2-3 paragraph response to the book, including the following topic. Be sure to follow the format described below.

The plot of the book revolves around trying to gain the riches hidden by Smaug. Describe how greed affects those in the story by considering these questions:

- A. Are the characters in the book blinded by the riches? If so, how does greed for riches blind them?
- B. Note that the extremely greedy characters, Smaug and Gollum, live in isolation. Why does greed lead Smaug and Gollum to live in isolation?
- C. How can greed affect a person in today's world? What does the Bible say about greed?

The paper should be typed in 12 pt Times New Roman font and double spaced with the following MLA format double-spaced in the upper left-hand corner of the first page:

John Smith

Mrs. Logan (or Literature teacher, if known)

Literature

1 August 2024 (be sure all of these lines are double-spaced)

You may include a title. If so, do not underline it or put it in quotes. Double-space after the title, then start the first paragraph. All paragraphs should be indented (use the tab key).

9th and 10th Grade Reading Assignment

Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis

Lewis opens our eyes to the spiritual battle surrounding us as he writes imaginary letters between a senior tempter, Screwtape, and his nephew, a junior devil, Wormwood, who is trying to get a young man to turn away from God.

*Before reading, note that this book is written from the devil's perspective, so God is named the Enemy, Satan is named Our Father, the Christian disciple is named the Patient, etc.

Complete the following:

- I. DISCUSSION: Be prepared to discuss these questions and others in seminar in a graded discussion:
 - A. What does it mean to be a "mere Christian" based on Screwtape's advice to Wormwood?
 - B. The book has some excellent quotes in it. Write down a quote and be ready to discuss its meaning and why it is meaningful to you.
 - C. How have you been challenged as a disciple of Christ by reading these letters?
 - D. Screwtape believes religious communities can actually draw the patient away from the Enemy (God). Is this true and if so, how can that happen?
 - E. According to Screwtape, why should Wormwood convince the patient that Wormwood and the world he inhabits does not exist?
 - F. In what way does Screwtape suggest Wormwood should influence the patient's understanding of love?
 - G. What topic struck you personally as something many people your age might struggle with in their spiritual lives?
- II. PAPER: Write a 5-paragraph response (introduction, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion to this book about the topic below, including an. Be sure to follow the format described below.

Screwtape writes many letters concerning various topics in the Christian's life. Pick three of the topics (church, love, family, laziness, gluttony, war, cliques, etc.) and write a paragraph about each describing how the devil may tempt the Christian in that area, using textual evidence. Include a scripture that relates to each topic as well.

The paper should be typed in 12 pt Times New Roman font and double spaced with the following MLA format double-spaced in the upper left-hand corner of the first page:

John Smith

Mrs. Logan (or Literature teacher, if known)

Literature

1 August 2024 (be sure these lines are double-spaced)

You may include a title. If so, do not underline it or put it in quotes. Double-space after the title, then start the first paragraph. All paragraphs should be indented.

11th Grade Reading Assignment

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Published in 1850 but set in the 1640s, *The Scarlet Letter* investigates American Puritan culture and asks enduring questions about public morality, personal privacy, and community accountability.

Complete the following:

- I. DISCUSSION: Prepare to discuss these questions and others in a graded seminar-style discussion:
 - A. What can you learn from this novel about Puritan beliefs and practices?
 - B. What posture does the narrative seem to take on Puritanism? Is the narrator sympathetic, skeptical, critical, or something else? What in the text makes you think this?
 - C. Puritans would have regarded the forest as wilderness and therefore symbolic of evil but the town as civilization and therefore symbolic of safety. How do you see this contrast at work in the novel?
 - D. The letter “A” changes in meaning throughout the novel. What does it mean at various stages? Why does its meaning change?
 - E. How are women portrayed in this novel? What are their roles, what standards are they expected to uphold, and how do others regard them?
 - F. How does isolation affect the three main characters (Prynne, Dimmesdale, Chillingworth)? Compare and contrast their responses to physical, emotional, and/or spiritual isolation.
 - G. In your opinion, which of the novel’s characters is guilty of the greatest wrong? Explain your claim with textual support.
- II. ESSAY. Write a 5-paragraph response to this book on ONE of the following topics:
 - A. What is the difference between public and private shame? Is either public or private shame ever appropriate? Why or why not? How is shame experienced in this novel? Is it ever appropriate in the novel? Why or why not? Cite textual evidence.
 - B. Compare and contrast Rev. Dimmesdale and Hester. How are the consequences for their sins similar/different and how does shame impact each character?

This essay should follow MLA formatting:

- Double-space your entire document and type it in 12-point Times New Roman font.
- Include the following header at the top left-hand corner of the first page of your essay:

John Smith

Mrs. Strange

American Literature

1 August 2024

- Create a title for your essay that summarizes your main claim. Center that title in the line between the header and the first paragraph. The title should follow headline-style capitalization.
- Use the tab key to indent the first line of each paragraph (if your word-processing software does not automatically indent these lines).