



Rising 10th Grade Summer Reading 2026

You are required to read two books, Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur* (ISBN 0451528166 or 0451531493) and another book of your choice from the 10th grade outside reading list. Be sure to purchase a physical copy of *Le Morte d'Arthur* since you will not be allowed to bring any Kindles or eBook readers to school.

From *Le Morte d'Arthur* you will be required to read "The Tale of King Arthur," "The Tale of Sir Launcelot Du Lake," "The Knight of the Cart" (chapter 4 from *The Book of Sir Launcelot and Queen Gwynevere*) and "Le Morte d'Arthur."

As you read the assigned portions of *Le Morte D'Arthur*, think about the following questions. These questions will be the basis of our discussion of the book once we return to school.

- Why do Arthur's knights of the round table do what they do? What motivates them?
- Is Camelot a Christian kingdom? Why or why not?
- What are the standards of conduct to which the knights of the round table hold themselves? Can and do they live up to them?
- What role do romantic love and women play in this story? Is this the same or different role as other books you have read at ECCS?
- What do you think of Launcelot? Is he a hero or a villain or both or neither?
- Does *Le Morte D'Arthur* have a sad or happy ending? Why or why not?

Le Morte D'Arthur will be the basis for the first unit of study in your 10th-grade literature class.

Additionally, you will be required to choose a book from the 10th-grade outside reading list, read it and complete a writing assignment about it over the summer. The summer reading list and writing assignment are below.

Remember that the grades associated with summer reading can be helpful in getting your literature grade off to a great start if you take advantage of them. If you have any questions about the summer reading, you can call the school at 216-0149 during our regular summer office hours or email Mr. Callender at ecallender@evangelclassical.org.

Following the essay prompt is the list from which you may choose for the outside reading project. **You may not choose a book from this list that you have read previously for outside reading or summer reading projects.** Additionally, each book may be chosen by no more than two students. Mr. Callender will have a sign-up list to keep track of which student has chosen which book.

Happy Reading!

Rising 10th Grade Summer Reading Essay

Select a book from the 10th-grade outside reading list to read on your own over the summer. Read the book, then respond to the following prompt.

You have just finished the book you chose for your summer reading assignment. It was awesome from start to finish and you enjoyed it immensely. You enjoyed it so much, in fact, that you can't wait to recommend this book to your pen pal. Compose a letter to your pen pal in which you try to persuade him or her to also read the book you chose. Your letter should be at least five paragraphs (though it can be longer) in length and should include the following elements:

- Brief Introduction
- Plug the author: What are they particularly good at? What about their writing style is enjoyable? What are some of their strengths as an author?
- Elevator pitch of the plot: If you had to get someone interested in the plot of your book in the time it takes to ride an elevator, how would you describe it?
- Two reasons why this book is a fun and engaging read.
- Something valuable which one can learn from reading this book.
- Conclusion

Write your letter by hand and deliver it sealed in an envelope the second day of school. This will be a 100-point test grade. You will be graded using an adapted version of the rhetoric school composition rubric (like what was used to grade your debate papers).

If you have any questions about this assignment, please email Mr. Callender at ecallender@evangelclassical.org.

10th Grade Reading List, 2026-2027

Nine Coaches Waiting by Mary Stewart
King Solomon's Mines by H. Rider Haggard
The Blue Castle by L.M. Montgomery
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie
And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie
The Four Feathers by A.E.W. Mason
Howl's Moving Castle by Diana Wynne Jones
Starship Troopers by R.A. Heinlein
Watership Down by Richard Adams
Lord Jim by Joseph Conrad
Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens
The Nine Tailors by Dorothy Sayers
The House of the Seven Gables by Nathaniel Hawthorne
Moby Dick by Herman Melville
Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoyevsky
Les Miserables by Victor Hugo
The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexander Dumas
The Fellowship of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien (book 1 of *The Lord of the Rings*)
The Two Towers by J.R.R. Tolkien (book 2 of *The Lord of the Rings*)
The Return of the King by J.R.R. Tolkien (book 3 of *The Lord of the Rings*)
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen
The Mayor of Casterbridge by Thomas Hardy
Far from the Madding Crowd by Thomas Hardy
Silas Marner by George Eliot
The Tempest by William Shakespeare
King Lear by William Shakespeare
Dracula by Bram Stoker
A Separate Peace by John Knowles
Out of the Silent Planet by C.S. Lewis (book 1 of *The Space Trilogy*)
Perelandra by C.S. Lewis (book 2 of *The Space Trilogy*)
That Hideous Strength by C.S. Lewis (book 3 of *The Space Trilogy*)
The Great Divorce by C.S. Lewis
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
There is Confusion by Jessie Redmon Fauset
House of Mirth by Edith Wharton
North and South by Elizabeth Gaskell