



Florida Preparatory Academy  
Summer Reading Assignments  
and Reading Program

**2025-2026 Academic Year**

Research has documented that students lose crucial academic skills during their summer break. However, research has further shown that students who read for pleasure during these long breaks test higher and are more academically advanced than their non-reading counterparts.

In an effort to encourage summer reading for our new and returning students, Florida Preparatory Academy's English Department constructs reading lists for students to read during the summer months.

If your son or daughter plans on taking Advanced Placement English, it is suggested that you encourage your child to read as much as possible. Success on the Advanced Placement English exams relies on the knowledge of a wide variety of texts.

## Fifth Grade

Students in the 5th grade are encouraged to read any of the following books. They are not required to complete an assignment.

**Eva of the Farm** By Dia Calhoun

Twelve-year-old Eva writes beautiful poems on the farm in Washington State that her family has owned for generations, but when the money runs out and then her baby brother gets sick, the family faces foreclosure and the way of life she loves is threatened.

**Poison Most Vial** By Benedict Carey

When a famous forensic scientist turns up dead and Ruby's father becomes the prime suspect, Ruby must marshal everyone she can to help solve the mystery and prove her father didn't poison his boss.

**A Black Hole Is Not a Hole (updated version)** By Carolyn Cinai DeCristofano

Introduces black holes, describing their physical features, how they were discovered, what causes them, and where they exist in space.

**Greyhound of a Girl** By Roddy Doyle

Mary O'Hara is a sharp and cheeky twelve-year-old Dublin schoolgirl who is bravely facing the fact that her beloved Gran is dying. But Gran can't let go of life, and when a mysterious young woman turns up in Mary's street with a message for her Gran, Mary gets pulled into an unlikely adventure.

**The World in Your Lunch Box** By Claire Eamer

Explore a week of lunches, from apples to pizza, by taking a romp through thousands of years of extraordinary events. Some are amusing, like the accidental invention of potato chips. Others are tragic, such as the Spice Wars, which killed thousands of people.

**The Last Dragonslayer** By Jasper Fforde

Fifteen-year-old Jennifer Strange runs an agency for underemployed magicians in a world where magic is fading away, but when visions of the death of the world's last dragon begin, all signs point to Jennifer and Big Magic.

**Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass: The Story Behind and American Friendship** By

Russell Freedman

A clear-sighted, carefully researched account of two surprisingly parallel lives and how they intersected at a critical moment in U.S. history.

**Beholding Bee** By Kimberly Newton Fusco

In 1942, when life turns sour at the carnival that has always been her home, eleven-year-old Bee takes her dog, Peabody, and piglet, Cordelia, and sets out to find a real home, aided by two women that only Bee and her pets can see.

**Chomp** By Carl Hiaassen

When the difficult star of the reality television show "Expedition Survival" disappears while filming an episode in the Florida Everglades using animals from the wildlife refuge run by Wahoo Crane's family, Wahoo, and classmate Tuna Gordon set out to find him while avoiding Tuna's gun-happy father.

**One for the Murphys** By Lynda Mullaly Hunt

After a heartbreaking betrayal, Carley is sent to live with a foster family and struggles with opening herself up to their love.

**Zombie Makers: True Stories of Nature's Undead** By Rebecca L. Johnson

Are zombies real? Scientists know this for sure: dead people do not come back to life and start walking around, looking for trouble. But there are things that can take over the bodies and brains of innocent creatures, turning them into senseless slaves. Meet nature's zombie makers—including a fly-enslaving fungus, a suicide worm, and a cockroach-taming wasp.

**A Year Without Autumn** By Liz Kessler

Twelve-year-old Jenni's much-anticipated vacation with her family and best friend Autumn goes awry when an old elevator transports her to a future in which everything has changed, and she must not only return to her time but find a way to prevent what she has seen from coming true.

**The Vindico** By Wesley King

When the supervillains of the Vindico realize they are getting too old to fight the League of Heroes, they kidnap and begin training five teens, but James, Lana, Hayden, Emily, and Sam will not become the next generation of evil without a fight.

**See You at Harry's** By Jo Knowles

Twelve-year-old Fern feels invisible in her family, where grumpy eighteen-year-old Sarah is working at the family restaurant fourteen-year-old Holden is struggling with school bullies and his emerging homosexuality, and adorable, three-year-old Charlie is always the center of attention, and when tragedy strikes, the fragile bond holding the family together is stretched almost to the breaking point.

**Madeleine L'Engle's A Wrinkle in Time** The Graphic Novel by Hope Larson

A graphic novel adaptation of the classic tale in which Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and search for Meg's father, who has disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government.

**The Lions of Little Rock** By Kristin Levine

It's 1958 in Little Rock, Arkansas, and painfully shy twelve-year-old Marlee sees her city and family divided over school integration, but her friendship with Liz, a new student, helps her find her voice and fight against racism.

**National Geographic Book of Animal Poetry** Edited by J. Patrick Lewis

Combines photography with lyrical text celebrating the animal world, in a compilation that includes works by such poets as Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost, and Rudyard Kipling.

**The Fairy Ring: Or, Elsie and Frances Fool the World** By Mary Losure

Frances was nine when she first saw the fairies. They were tiny men, dressed all in green. Nobody but Frances saw them, so her cousin Elsie painted paper fairies and took photographs of them "dancing" around Frances to make the grown-ups stop teasing. The girls promised each other they would never, ever tell that the photos weren't real. But how were Frances and Elsie supposed to know that their photographs would fall into the hands of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle? And who would have dreamed that the man who created the famous detective Sherlock Holmes believed ardently in fairies — and wanted very much to see one? A delight for everyone with a fondness for fairies, and for anyone who has ever started something that spun out of control.

**The Adventures of Achilles** By Daniel Morden and Hugh Lupton

The story of Achilles, the son of a king and a goddess, who led the Greek armies during the Trojan War.

**One Times Square: A Century of Change at the Crossroads of the World** By Joe McKendry

One Times Square explores the story of this fascinating intersection, starting when Broadway was a mere dirt path known as Bloomingdale Road, through the district's decades of postwar decay, to its renewal as a glittering, tourist-friendly media mecca.

**How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World** By Sy Montgomery and Temple Grandin

**The False Prince** By Jennifer Nielsen

In the country of Carthya, a devious nobleman engages four orphans in a brutal competition to be selected to impersonate the king's long-missing son in an effort to avoid a civil war.

**Splendors and Glooms** By Laura Amy Schlitz

When Clara vanishes after the puppeteer Grisini and two orphaned assistants were at her 12th birthday party, suspicion of kidnapping chases the trio away from London and soon the two orphans are caught in a trap set by Grisini's ancient rival, a witch with a deadly inheritance to shed before it is too late.

**The Sports Pages (Guys Read)** Edited by Jon Scieszka

A collection of sports stories featuring everything from fighting to friendship, set everywhere from the tennis court to the hockey rink.

**Jake and Lily** By Jerry Spinelli

Jake and Lily are twins and have always felt the same—like two halves of one person—but the year they turn eleven and Jake begins hanging out with Bump Stubbins, everything changes.

**Cardboard** By Doug TenNapel

When cardboard creatures come magically to life, a boy must save his town from disaster.

**Where Do Presidents Come from?** By Michael Townsend

In this book, Townsend introduces kids to the lives and responsibilities of the president of the United States, as well as the constitutional separation of powers and the history of the White House.

**Navigating Early** By Clare Vanderpool

An Odyssey-like adventure of two boys' incredible quest on the Appalachian Trail where they deal with pirates, buried secrets, and extraordinary encounters.

## Sixth Grade

### ***Choose 1 of these books:***

Skink- No Surrender by Carl Hiassen OR

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan

**Assignment:** Please answer all of the following questions by answering in detail and using examples from the book for each one.

1. If you could ask the main character 3 questions, what would you ask and why?
2. What is the point of view in your book? How do you know?
3. What was the main idea of this book? Was there a moral to the story?
4. Do you have any unanswered questions about the story? Explain.
5. What connections are there between the book and your life? Explain

Please send your completed assignment to [tpegues@flprep.com](mailto:tpegues@flprep.com) prior to Aug 9, 2025

## Seventh Grade

### ***Choose 1 of these books:***

The Boy who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba OR

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

**Assignment:** Please answer all of the following questions by answering in detail and using examples from the book for each one.

1. If you could ask the main character 3 questions, what would you ask and why?
2. What is the point of view in your book? How do you know?
3. Think of an important event in your book. How would the story have changed if this event had not happened?
4. What was the main idea of this book? Was there a moral to this story?
5. Do you have any unanswered questions about the story? Explain.
6. What connections are there between the book and your life? Explain

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## Eighth Grade

### ***Choose 1 of these books:***

The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak OR

No Summit Out of Sight by Jordan Romero

**Assignment:** Please answer all of the following questions by answering in detail and using examples from the book for each one.

1. If you could ask the main character 3 questions, what would you ask?
2. What is the point of view in your book? How do you know?
3. What is the main idea of the book? Was there a moral to the story?
4. Think of an important event in your book. How would the story have changed if this event had not happened?
5. Do you have any unanswered questions about the story? Explain.
6. What connections are there between the book and your life? Explain

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## Ninth Grade

### ***Choose 1 of the following novels:***

#### ***Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds**

Jason Reynolds' *Long Way Down* won a 2018 Newbery Honor, Coretta Scott King Author Honor, and Michael L. Printz Honor. It's a novel in free verse that tells the story of an African American teen boy at a crossroads. Determined to avenge his 19-year-old brother's death, Will, age 15, takes his brother's gun out of their shared bedroom to kill the person he's certain is the murderer, but it's a long way down in the elevator. Almost the whole novel takes place in the span of the 60-second ride from the seventh floor to the lobby, as Will's past and "The Rules" he's learned about being tough flash before him, aided by conversations with the ghosts of friends and relatives who were victims of gun violence.

**Assignment:** Using examples from the novel, discuss the following topics: choices and consequences, the power of grief, and the cycle of violence. Also, discuss what you think the ending really means. Write at least 500 words.

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#### ***Monster* by Walter Dean Myers**

Guilty or innocent, Steve becomes a pawn in the hands of "the system," cluttered with cynical authority figures and unscrupulous inmates, who will turn in anyone to shorten their own sentences. For the first time, Steve is forced to think about who he is as he faces prison, where he may spend all the tomorrows of his life.

As a way of coping with the horrific events that entangle him, Steve, an amateur filmmaker, decides to transcribe his trial into a script, just like in the movies. He writes it all down, scene by scene, the story of how his whole life was turned around in an instant. But despite his efforts, reality is blurred and his vision obscured until he can no longer tell who he is or what the truth really is.

**Assignment:** Using examples from the novel, discuss the following topics: Coping with horrible events, teens in jail—how they deal, family, and how the author finds solace in movie screenwriting. Write at least 500 words.

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## *Animal Farm* by George Orwell

*Animal Farm* is George Orwell's biting satire of totalitarianism, written in the wake of World War II and published amid the rise of Soviet Russia. Though it tells a fairly simple story of barnyard animals trying to manage themselves after rebelling against their masters, the novel demonstrates how easily good intentions can cross into tyranny.

**Assignment:** Before reading, review what Communism is—this will help with understanding the satire/humor within the novel. What is the correlation between this book and the Russian revolution? Do you see a modern example of this? Write an essay with at least 500 words.

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## Tenth Grade

***You must read Out of the Dust.***

***Choose 1 of the other 2 to read as well.***

**Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse.** A terrible accident has transformed Billie Jo's life, scarring her inside and out. Her mother is gone. Her father can't talk about it. And the one thing that might make her feel better -- playing the piano -- is impossible with her wounded hands.

To make matters worse, dust storms are devastating the family farm and all the farms nearby. While others flee from the dust bowl, Billie Jo is left to find peace in the bleak landscape of Oklahoma -- and in the surprising landscape of her own heart.

This novel is background knowledge to prepare you to read a novel during the upcoming year.

**Assignment:** Using examples from the novel, discuss the following topics: survival, grief and healing, and life during the Great Depression. Write at least 500 words.

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***Choose 1 of the following novels to read:***

**Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer.** Chris McCandless is often regarded through two different viewpoints. Some believe that McCandless was courageous to take actions and to have noble ideals that would fulfill his dreams. Others believe that he was a narcissistic, selfish and unprepared kid who threw his life away.

**Assignment:** Write an essay that develops your personal views about Chris. Select one of these opinions or determine your own opinion about him and build your argument by using quotes from the novel, by relating to specific incidents, and by analyzing how or why these actions prove your view of him. Write at least 500 words.

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## *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai

*I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up For Education and Changed the World* is a memoir by Malala Yousafzai. Malala was born in Pakistan in 1997 and became a household word in 2012, when she was shot at point-blank range by a member of the Taliban on her way home from school for advocating education for girls. Malala tells of being inspired at a young age to stand up for what was right.

**Assignment:** Persuasive Writing: Write a brief book review for *I Am Malala*. In a one to two paragraph response explain why you would recommend this book to a peer. If you would not recommend the book to a peer, what person or age group would most enjoy *I Am Malala*? Please use specific events and ideas from the book to support your opinion. Your review should be at least 500 words.

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## Eleventh Grade

### ***Must read and complete assignments for both books:***

#### **Miracle in the Andes**, by Nando Parrado

Assignment: In this book Nando Parrado reveals information about the challenges and adversities that he faced during and after the plane crash in the Andes Mountains - more than most people face in a lifetime. In such times of hardship and suffering people are forced to face their problems or to give in to them. Write an essay in which you identify three lessons that he learned. Consider how Parrado faced and tackled his most daunting challenges; what motivated him to face the risks and dangers; what did he learn about himself.

The essay should include 5 paragraphs: an introduction, one for each of the lessons you mention, and a conclusion. Use 12-point Times New Roman font. Make sure to include your name and the title of the book.

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#### **Catcher in the Rye** by J. D. Salinger

Assignment: Google “themes in Catcher in the Rye.” Once you have found some on various sites, select one theme to write about. Include in your essay how the theme is developed throughout the book and use several specific details from the book to support your claim.

Be sure to include introductory and concluding paragraphs. Use 12-point Times New Roman font. Make sure to include your name and the title of the book.

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## AP Language and Composition

### ***Must read and complete assignments for both books:***

#### **On Writing** by Steven King

Assignment: Even though this book is divided into two sections, King's memoir and his writing suggestions, he reveals information throughout the book about what a writer needs to know. Write an essay that identifies some of the most important things. Use quotes, two per paragraph, that prove your claims. You may agree or disagree with his suggestions by elaborating on your feelings about his suggestions, by stating reasons, by analyzing them with commentary, by presenting your own examples, or in general by responding to each quote that you use.

When writing the essay(s), please follow the standards for a five-paragraph essay, including an introductory paragraph that has a thesis statement, three well-developed body paragraphs with topic sentences and support, and a concluding paragraph. Hand written essays must be written with blue or black ink, must be written on one side of the paper only, and must include your name and title of the novel. Typed papers must follow these guidelines: 12 point Times New Roman font, double spaced, and your name and title of the novel.

Please do not summarize the plot. Use quotes to prove your points and analyze them.

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#### **A Walk in the Woods** by Bill Bryson

Assignment: Write an essay that identifies Bryson's purposes in writing this book. Find and quote passages that best reveal his development of the purpose. Write a paragraph for each purpose to explain and to justify your interpretation of it. Use two quotes with analysis for each paragraph.

When writing the essay(s), please follow the standards for a five-paragraph essay, including an introductory paragraph that has a thesis statement, three well-developed body paragraphs with topic sentences and support, and a concluding paragraph.

Hand written essays must be written with blue or black ink, must be written on one side of the paper only, and must include your name and title of the novel. Typed papers must follow these guidelines: 12 point Times New Roman font, double spaced, and your name and title of the novel.

Please do not summarize the plot. Use quotes to prove your points and analyze them.

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## Twelfth Grade

***Must read and complete assignments for both books:***

### **Heart of Darkness**, by Joseph Conrad

Assignment: This novel is one of many that deals with British Colonialism, which is a topic we will discuss extensively in English 4. In an essay, first explain what British Colonialism is. Then express your opinion about how the concept of Colonialism affects the narrator's opinion of Kurtz, the company's opinion of Kurtz, and the natives' opinion of Kurtz.

Use 12-point Times New Roman font. Make sure to include your name and the title of the book.

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### **Jane Eyre**, by Charlotte Bronte

Assignment: There are several themes in this great novel, including love versus autonomy, the significance of social classes, the sanctity of marriage and home and belonging. Select one of these and write an essay which shows how it is developed throughout the book. Use as many specific examples from the book as possible to support your main idea.

Use 12-point Times New Roman font. Make sure to include your name and the title of the book.

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## AP Literature and Composition

***Must read and complete assignments for both books:***

### **Great Expectations** by Charles Dickens

Assignment: In many novels a certain character holds an ideal view of the world. Select a character from this novel who holds such a view. Then analyze that character's idealism and its positive or negative consequences. Explain how the author's portrayal of this idealism illuminates the meaning of the book as a whole.

Use 12-point Times New Roman font. Make sure to include your name and the title of the book.

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### **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest** by Ken Kesey

Assignment: In this novel, cultural, physical or geographical surroundings shape the psychological and/or moral traits in a character. Write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how surroundings affect this character and illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole.

Use 12-point Times New Roman font. Make sure to include your name and the title of the book.

NOTE: both assignments are actual AP test prompts.

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## **Tentative Reading lists during the school year (subject to change):**

### **Grade 9**

Night by Elie Wiesel

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

Black Boy by Richard Wright

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green

### **Grade 10**

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison

Taming of the Shrew, by William Shakespeare

Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

### **Grade 11**

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

A Farewell to Arms by Earnest Hemingway

Twelve Angry Men by Reginald Rose

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

## **AP Language and Composition**

Nickel and Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich

Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer

In Cold Blood by Truman Capote

Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom

The Perfect Storm by Sebastian Junger

Out of Africa by Dinesen

The Count of Monte Cristo by Dumas

The World's Greatest Speeches

## **Grade 12**

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde

Cry, The Beloved Country by Alan Paton

Secret Sharer by Joseph Conrad

## **AP Lit**

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey (from summer reading list)

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens (from summer reading list)

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller

Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams

Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad

Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison