



# Summer Reading Program

## 2010-2011 Book Lists

### Philosophy/Rational

The capacity to read is a precious gift of God, and is critical today, particularly for students in the Christian school. Christians must continue to be people of the Word. God Himself chose the Bible to communicate to us the truth of His love and grace.

Excellence in education requires a literary education. It is the unique privilege and responsibility of the Christian English teacher to cultivate in students a taste for what is “excellent,” as Philippians 4:8 recommends. A Christian literature program is one in which students are taught to read great literature and to think, as Christians, as they read. One of the goals of the summer reading program at Maranatha is to instill the tools necessary to read, analyze and appreciate good literature. Our program will promote critical reading and cultivate the habit of reading with discernment and an awareness of larger contexts and deeper implications.

Judgments and evaluations are necessary when considering characters in novels, themes in reading selection and criticism of plots. The Maranatha standard by which literature is evaluated is the Word of God. The opportunity to evaluate a character’s motivation, behavior, and the results of his behavior from a Christian world view is a unique and valuable experience in Christian education. Analytical questions, posed in the discussion of literature, should prompt students to apply their knowledge of God’s laws and also sharpen and refine their own critical thinking skills.

Maranatha’s summer reading program exists to promote further stimulation of the mind for re-entering and newly enrolled junior high and high school students, grades 7-12. All returning students are required to complete the summer reading requirement. Also, all new students enrolled at Maranatha by July 15 of the preceding summer are expected to complete the summer reading requirement. By completing the required summer reading, students will come together during the first week of school already having common ground with one another and the teacher.

#### **Disclaimer:**

Books for this list were carefully evaluated by comparing recommended lists from various colleges and universities as well as lists from other Christian schools from across the country. Selection was also based on the opinion, experience, and knowledge of the teachers in the Maranatha English Department. In addition, each book was evaluated

according to our Maranatha Christian world view and mission. Finally, the committee also tried to address different reading abilities and interests.

As a result, you will find a wide range of books from which to choose your student's reading selection. We recommend that parents actively participate in this process. The synopsis that is included will give you a general guide of the plotline. The moral tone and lessons taught by these books are generally positive; some may, however, have a few objectionable elements that should be addressed in their context.

### **Instructions**

To this end, and because Maranatha seeks to continue reinforcing reading skills, we are implementing a summer reading program. A variety of books have been chosen for each grade level. Students should choose **ONE** book from the list for the **grade level they will enter in August**. Select a book based upon his or her interest and your family's standards and **select a book the student has not previously read**. Most of these books may be found in the public library or bookstore.

### **Evaluation**

In order to effectively measure a student's completion and comprehension of the required summer reading novel, a standard evaluation will be used. On the 8th full day of school, all English classes, grades 7-12, will have a culminating assessment worth 50 points (equal to a test). This will cover the basic elements of the novel. These include the plot line, characters, settings, themes, and biblical world view application. Each student will also have the opportunity to express his or her opinion and reaction to the novel.



**Books are our Friend**

### Incoming 7th Grade

***Cheaper by the Dozen*** by Ernestine Gilbreth

The biography of the Gilbreth family, in Nineteenth Century America, whose father, a time management expert, died. In order to make ends meet, their mother went to work in their father's stead – unheard of in that time.

***Good Bye Mr. Chips*** by James Hilton

In 1870 Charles Edward Chipping is engaged as the new Latin master at Brookfield School where he leads a rather lackluster life. Then his friend Staefel persuades Chipping to accompany him on a walking tour of the Alps where he encounters Katherine Bridges, with whom he falls in love.

***Hounds of the Baskervilles*** by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The dramatic death of Sir Charles Baskerville brings Sherlock Holmes to the lonely, mysterious Devon moors to investigate the mystery.

***A Journey to the Center of the Earth*** by Jules Verne

A team of explorers makes an expedition into a crater in Iceland which leads to the center of the earth and to incredible and horrifying discoveries.

***The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*** by Avi

As the only passenger, and the only female, on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, thirteen-year-old Charlotte finds herself caught between a murderous captain and a mutinous crew.

***A Wrinkle in Time*** by Madeleine L'Engle

Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who has disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government.

***Martin Luther*** by Mike Fearon

This book is part of the Men of Faith series. It is a short biography about Martin Luther

***In The Presence of My Enemies*** by Gracia Burnam

This is the story of Gracia and her husband Martin Burnham who were New Tribes Missionaries captured by Abu Sayyaf (a group of Islamic Terrorists associated with Osama Bin Laden) in the Philippines in May 2001.

## Incoming 8th Grade

### ***20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*** by Jules Verne

Retells the adventures of a French professor and his two companions as they sail above and below the world's oceans as prisoners on the fabulous electric submarine of the deranged Captain Nemo. Illustrated notes throughout the text explain the historical background of the story.

### ***Across Five Aprils*** by Irene Hunt

Jethro Creighton, the protagonist, is young and idealistic when the Civil War begins. At first he thinks the war will be neat, full of marching soldiers and demonstrative patriotism. He learns the realities of war soon enough as he watches his three brothers, his cousin, and his teacher go off to fight. One of his brothers, Bill, chooses to fight for the South in a decision that plagues him for a long time. Jethro and his family follow the progress of the war through the newspapers, but it is hard to tell exactly what is happening. Each day the paper is full of praise or criticism for one of the Union generals, and Jethro has trouble sorting out what is actually going on.

### ***All Creatures Great and Small*** by James Herriot

Portrays the life of veterinarian Herriot in rural post World War II England. Herriot returns home and finds it difficult adjusting to peacetime. Through the support of his wife and partners, he begins to overcome his problems and rediscover the joy in veterinary medicine.

### ***The Call of the Wild*** by Jack London

The adventures of an unusual dog, part St. Bernard, part Scotch shepherd, that is forcibly taken to the Klondike gold fields where he eventually becomes the leader of a wolf pack.

### ***Let the Circle Be Unbroken*** by Mildred D. Taylor

This is a story of a small Mississippi town in the 1930s, and the troubles that plague its black community. Picking up where its precursor, *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, leaves off, Mildred Taylor recounts the trials of this small community through the characters of the Logan family

### ***Up From Slavery; an Autobiography*** by Booker T. Washington

The son of a slave, Booker Taliaferro Washington worked his way out the salt furnaces and coal mines to develop the esteemed Tuskegee Institute. This autobiographical work demonstrates his forceful and potent voice in the fight for African-American equality in turn-of-the-century America.

### ***Watership Down*** by Richard Adams

Chronicles the adventures of a group of rabbits searching for a safe place to establish a new warren where they can live in peace.

***The Hiding Place*** by Corrie ten Boom

This is a story of a family hiding the Dutch Jews during W.W. II and how “the light of God’s love penetrates the darkest places.”

***Holes*** by Louis Sachar

Stanley is just a regular kid until he is found responsible for a crime he didn't commit. We learn about a curse that has been in his family for several generations. His bad luck lands Stanley in a very strange correctional camp in the Texas desert. The warden has all the inmates digging holes in a dry lake bed. The story weaves interesting tall tales from local history and Stanley's family. The relationships among the juveniles in the camp are interesting to follow. Stanley finds a good friend, treasure, and learns to like himself.

**Incoming 9th Grade*****The Empty Land*** by Louis L'Amour

Matt Coburn was a decent man and good with a gun. He had cleaned up wild boom towns before but he wanted to finish that chapter of his life. However, when he rode through Confusion he felt himself being drawn into the drama unfolding there. There were good men in that town and a few beautiful women, too. Matt couldn't just turn his back on them and watch Big Thompson and the others destroy everything with foolish violence. Could he fight the odds and bring the law to Confusion or was this end of the trail for Matt Coburn?

***Frankenstein; or The Modern Prometheus*** by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley

The monster was supposed to be man's benefactor, but, scorned for his ugliness, he swears revenge on his creator and the human race.

***The Giver*** by Lois Lowry

In a world with no poverty, no crime, no sickness and no unemployment, and where every family is happy, 12-year-old Jonas is chosen to be the community's Receiver of Memories. Under the tutelage of the Elders and an old man known as the Giver, he discovers the disturbing truth about his utopian world and struggles against the weight of its hypocrisy. Lowry examines the idea that people might freely choose to give up their humanity in order to create a more stable society. Gradually Jonas learns just how costly this ordered and pain-free society can be, and boldly decides he cannot pay the price.

***Great Expectations*** by Charles Dickens

When a mysterious benefactor comes along, Pip begins the transformation from a blacksmith's son to society gentleman of great expectations.

***In His Steps*** by Charles Sheldon

This is the Christian classic that sparked the WWJD phenomenon.

***The Light in the Forest*** by Conrad Richter

As part of an agreement to keep peace, whites are insisting that captives who have been living with the Indians be returned to their white settlements. True Son, fifteen years old, has lived with the Delaware tribe since being captured as a baby.

***The Outsiders*** by S.E. Hinton

The struggle of three brothers to stay together after their parent's death and their quest for identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society.

***The Prince and the Pauper: a Tale for Young People of All Ages*** by Mark Twain

When young Edward VI of England and a poor boy who resembles him exchange places, each learns something about the other's very different station in life.

***The Three Musketeers*** by Alexandre Dumas

Three great swordsmen, Porthos, Aramis, Athos, with their protege, D'Artagnan, match wits with the sinister Cardinal Richelieu who seeks to divide the royalty in his own quest for power.

***The Time Machine; an Invention*** by H. G. Wells

Desperate to alter the course of time, a visionary scientist invents a revolutionary machine that propels him 800,000 years into the future. There he discovers that humans have evolved into two groups: the hunters and the hunted. Now he must fight to save himself, and all of mankind, in a final, desperate battle.

### **Incoming 10th Grade**

***All Quiet on the Western Front*** by Erich Maria Remarque

A group of young World War I German recruits pass from idealism to disillusionment with war.

***Around the World in Eighty Days*** by Jules Verne

In 1872, English gentleman Phileas Fogg has many adventures as he tries to win a bet that he can travel around the world in eighty days.

***Ben-Hur: a Tale of the Christ*** by Lew Wallace

A peace-loving prince of Judea, leads his nation against the wrath of the conquering Romans. His self-imposed destiny brings tragedy to himself, and his people, as he learns to fight, to love, to hate and, finally, to forgive.

***The Count of Monte Cristo*** by Alexandre Dumas

An innocent man, Edmond Dantes, is imprisoned for years on a godforsaken island while the friend who betrayed him takes Dantes ravishing fiancé for himself. Dantes eventually escapes, recovers a fortune in buried pirate treasure, transforms himself into the *mysterious Count of Monte Cristo, and methodically goes about exacting his revenge.*

***Little Women; or, Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy*** by Louisa May Alcott

The adventures of Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy as they grow into young women in mid-nineteenth-century New England.

***Night*** by Elie Wiesel

This is an account of the Nazi death camp horror that turns a young Jewish boy into an agonized witness to the death of his family...the death of his innocence. Penetrating and powerful, as personal as *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Night* awakens the shocking memory of evil at its absolute and carries with it the unforgettable message that this horror must never be allowed to happen again.

***Oliver Twist*** by Charles Dickens

Oliver Twist is an orphan forced to practice thievery and live a life of crime in nineteenth-century London.

***The Rocket Boys*** by Homer H. Hickam

The life and times of aerospace engineer Homer Hickam and his friends in Big Creek, West Virginia.

***Silas Marner: the Weaver of Raveloe*** by George Eliot

A young linen weaver's dreams are destroyed when he is falsely accused of a crime. Isolating himself, he becomes a selfish, despondent miser until he adopts an abandoned child.

***The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*** by Robert Louis Stevenson

A kind and well-respected doctor is transformed into a murderous madman by taking a secret drug of his own creation.

***The Scarlet Pimpernel*** by Baroness Emmuska Orczy

A twisted suspenseful romance set during the French Revolution. While men, women, and children fall under the merciless blade of the guillotine, one foppish gentleman, alias the Scarlet Pimpernel, bravely rescues aristocrats from the jaws of death. In the midst of his rescue, he meets and falls passionately in love with Marguerite, France's most celebrated actress

### Incoming 11th Grade

***The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*** by Earnest J. Gaines

Presents the story of the long life of Miss Jane Pittman, who began her life as a slave in the South and who marched for her civil rights in the 20th century at the age of 110.

***A Christian's Secret to a Happy Life*** by Hannah Whitall Smith

You may read the original or the updated version of this classic. An instant success when it was first published 100 years ago, this volume continues to inspire thousands with its simple, life-changing message of faith and trust in God. This all-new edition includes an index, a brief biography, and end-of-chapter questions to help you apply Hannah's insights to your own life. 309 pages, soft cover from Bridge.

***Don Quixote De La Mancha*** by Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra

The adventures of Don Quixote, a common man from La Mancha, who has convinced himself that he is a knight. With his portly peasant squire, Sancho Panza, who recognizes his master's madness but is nonetheless captivated by promises of kingdoms and riches, Don Quixote mistakes windmills for giants and flocks of sheep for armies.

***A Farewell to Arms*** by Ernest Hemingway

A volunteer ambulance driver and a beautiful English nurse fall in love when he is wounded on the Italian front. Set during World War I.

***The Grapes of Wrath*** by John Steinbeck

The migration of the Joad family to California from their dust-bowl farm in Oklahoma during the Great Depression.

***Ivanhoe*** by Sir Walter Scott

A young nobleman helps Richard I of England regain his throne.

***The Last of the Mohicans: a Narrative of 1757*** by James Fenimore Cooper

The tale of a Mohican brave's struggle to protect two English girls from an evil Huron.

***The Red Badge of Courage: an Episode of the American Civil War*** by Stephen Crane

The story of Henry Fleming and his initiation into manhood as a Union Army recruit during the Civil War.

***The Taming of the Shrew*** by William Shakespeare

The marriage of two strong-minded people provides the spark for a comic confrontation between the sexes: The "shrew," Katharina, is so ill-tempered she seems unlikely to find a husband. Her father refuses to let her younger sister marry until Katherina is off his hands. Petruchio appears, marries Katharina, and "tames" her so well that he wins a bet with two other men on a test of their wives' obedience.

***Walden; or, Life in the Woods*** by Henry David Thoreau

This is the one product of Thoreau's two-year sojourn at the pond—one of the great classics of American letters. Interwoven with accounts of Thoreau's daily life (he did not live as a recluse but received visitors and almost daily walked into Concord) are meditations on human existence, society, government and other topics, expressed with clear-headed wisdom and remarkable beauty of style.

**Incoming 12th Grade*****Animal Farm*** by George Orwell

A farm is taken over by its overworked, mistreated animals. With flaming idealism and stirring slogans, they set out to create a paradise of progress, justice, and equality. Thus the stage is set for one of the most telling satiric fables ever penned.

***Crime and Punishment*** by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Raskolnikov commits murder. He then must deal both with the police, and his own guilty conscience. Determined to overreach his humanity and assert his untrammelled individual will, Raskolnikov, an impoverished student living in the St. Petersburg of the Tsars, commits an act of murder and theft and sets into motion a story which, for its excruciating suspense, its atmospheric vividness, and its profundity of characterization and vision, is almost unequaled in the literatures of the world....

***Cry, The Beloved Country*** by Alan Paton

A black minister and white land owner are united by a tragedy, with the potential for further hatred or healing.

***Heart of Darkness*** by Joseph Conrad

In this haunting tale, Marlow, a seaman and wanderer, recounts his physical and psychological journey in search of Kurtz. His travels take him to the heart of Africa to discover how Kurtz has gained his position of power and influence over the local people.

***Much Ado About Nothing*** by William Shakespeare

A tale of love and enchantment set against a backdrop of mistaken identities

***Orthodoxy*** by GK Chesterton***Profiles in Courage*** by John F. Kennedy

The Pulitzer Prize-winning account of men of principle, integrity, and bravery in American politics.

***A Raisin in the Sun*** by Lorraine Hansberry

A struggling black family living on Chicago's South Side feels the impact of an unexpected insurance bequest. Each family member sees the bequest as the means of realizing dreams and of escape from grinding frustrations.

***The Screwtape Letters*** by C. S. Lewis

The book provides a series of lessons in the importance of taking a deliberate role in living out Christian faith by portraying a typical human life, with all its temptations and failings, as seen from the demon/devil's viewpoint.

***Tess of the D'Urbervilles*** by Thomas Hardy

Tess Durbeyfield is a luminous beauty who is violated by one man and forsaken by another, but she refuses to remain a victim. Her struggle to endure despite the abandonment of her true love, and despite her desperate attempt to attain happiness, propels Tess toward a tragic end.

***Turn of the Screw [And Other Short Fiction]*** by Henry James

A governess believes that the children in her care are being haunted.

***Wuthering Heights*** by Emily Bronte

Story of two generations of the Earnshaw and Linton families, as their lives and fortunes intertwine in a complex web dominated by the passionate relationship between doomed lovers Heathcliff and Cathy.