

Summer Reading 2026 List

Summer Reading requirements for 6-12 grades are on the OCS website (oaklandchristian.com). Click on Current Families/Family Portal. On the left-hand side click on the link called "Summer Math and Reading." Scroll down to find the link for your upcoming grade. This will contain the list of books to be read and the writing assignments to complete for the first week of school. Talk to your English teachers if you have any questions. Happy Reading!!

Entering 6th Grade: (with Ms. Meyer)

Holes by Louis Sachar tells the story of Stanley Yelnats who is sent to a juvenile work camp in the Texas desert for a crime he didn't commit. This novel explores themes of friendship, forgiveness, justice, and redemption as Stanley spends more time at Camp Green Lake and uncovers secrets about his family and himself.

Entering 7th Grade: (with Mrs. Garver) Choose **ONE** of the following books to read in its entirety before the first day of school. Type a reflection essay, according to the instructions shared, and give it to Mrs. Garver on the first day of school.

Historical Fiction: **Refugee by Alan Gratz**

Realistic Fiction: **Restart by Gordon Korman**

Fantasy Adventure: **The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis** (classic lit)

Entering 8th Grade: (with Mrs. Garver) Choose **ONE** of the following books to read in its entirety before the first day of school. Type a reflection essay, according to the instructions shared, and give it to Mrs. Garver on the first day of school.

Historical Fiction: **War Games by Alan Gratz**

Realistic Fiction: **Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls** (classic lit)

Fantasy Adventure: **The False Prince by Jennifer Nielson**

Entering 9th Grade: (with Mrs. Hall) Choose ONE of the following nonfiction books to read in its entirety before the first day of school:

Outcasts United by Warren St. John

Every Falling Star by Sungju Lee & Susan McClelland

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba is the true story of a young boy in Malawi who uses his ingenuity to solve his village's problems stemming from drought and lack of electricity.

Entering 10th Grade: (with Ms. Reynolds)

The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton is a dramatic and enduring work of young adult fiction that laid the groundwork for the genre. S. E. Hinton's classic novel of a boy who finds himself on the outskirts of regular society remains as powerful today as it was the day it was first published.

Entering 11th or 12th Grade: British Literature (with Mrs. Klein)

Out of the Silent Planet by C.S. Lewis is the first novel in his acclaimed Space Trilogy. We are introduced to Dr. Ransom whose adventures lead him to travel to the red planet of Malacandra. While there, he (and we) sees God in a new way through the inhabitants of an unfallen world.

Entering 11th or 12th Grade: AP Language and Composition (with Ms. Reynolds)

Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom is a 1997 memoir about a series of visits Albom made to his former Brandeis University sociology professor, Morrie Schwartz, as Schwartz was dying from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. In class, students will discuss themes of life, death, money, culture, forgiveness, and more.

Nonfiction Choice: students will engage in a nonfiction book of their choice.

Current Events Assignment: students will stay informed on what is happening globally, nationally, and locally.

Entering 11th or 12th Grade: AP Literature and Composition (with Mrs. Klein)--all three are required:

1. **1984 by George Orwell** is a classic dystopian vision of totalitarian control. Students will learn first-hand about Big Brother, doublethink, and thoughtcrime.
2. **Brave New World by Aldous Huxley** is a classic dystopian satire set in the future ideal, yet soulless society where everyone is "happy and content" but at a great cost.
3. **The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde** is a comedic play that explores themes of identity, social expectations and the nature of truth and deception. It's subtitle says it well: "A Trivial Comedy for Serious People."

Dear Secondary Parents and Students,

The Oakland Christian School English Department is pleased to continue the Summer Required Reading Program for students entering 6th grade through 12th grade. Students are required to completely read the assigned novel for their grade level (see the above list). Within the first few weeks of school in the fall, the novel will be discussed and reviewed in class prior to final testing. There may be reading quizzes the first week of school--check the individual grade assignments. There are brief writing assignments in conjunction with the reading (hard copies of the writing assignment can be obtained from the school; electronic copies are on the school website; if your children were OCS students in 2026-27 they were given hard copies by their English teachers)

Please help your student(s) obtain a copy of the novel(s) and plan how to accomplish their reading over the next three months. They may read along with audio books, watch movies, or consult websites, but none of these are necessary. Students may NOT use these *aids* as substitutes for reading the entire text of the novel.

The reasons for reading are myriad. Students who read regularly enjoy improved verbal, spelling, and grammatical skills, larger vocabularies, and more highly-developed methods of critical thinking and imagination. By and large, they can read faster and write with greater complexity, which helps them in other academic areas. Additionally, studies show that students who read regularly score higher on standardized tests (see Mucherah and Yoder, 2008 for more information). We strongly support a solid education in the humanities for our students, and this exposure to some of the great authors and works of our civilization will help prepare them for any path they choose in life.

As the primary educator in your child's life and in partnership with OCS, we hope you will encourage your student(s) in this program. We also encourage you to pick up the novels and read along with your child(ren)! Let's work together to ensure a positive and enlightening reading experience, which will help our students achieve future success.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ann Klein

English Department Head
(May 2026)