

Providence Secondary Summer Reading: 2025

Summer Reading

To encourage growth in godliness, wisdom, and virtue and to foster a common culture and discussion, every secondary grade will have one required book to read in the summer. You may find a copy of the required book at a used bookstore, Amazon, at your local library, etc. The required book for each **incoming grade** is listed below (point value in parenthesis):

7th grade: ***The Hiding Place***, Corrie ten Boom (2)

10th grade: ***The Screwtape Letters***, C.S. Lewis (2)

8th grade: ***The Holiness of God***, R.C. Sproul (2)

11th grade: ***The Cost of Discipleship***, D. Bonhoeffer (4)

9th grade: ***Holiness***, chapters 1-8, 15, and 20, J.C. Ryle (2)

12th grade: ***Strange New World***, Carl Trueman (2)

For your required grade level book, be thinking about:

- What were the key themes in the book? What specific section was most meaningful to you?
- What Providence core virtues are most highlighted in the book? Did one stand out in particular?
- How does this book encourage your growth in godliness, wisdom, and virtue?
- How does the message of this book contribute to a robust Christian culture?

We are asking each student to read books totaling at least 4 points. In addition to the one required book, students are encouraged to read from the recommended book list, though they may read any grade-appropriate book they choose as long as parents have given approval (see below for the point values of books). Point values are awarded from books you read from your grade-level reading list, or from lists above your grade level. Each book on the list has a minimum value of 2 points. Some books are worth more than 2 points, due to the content or length of the book. Any book you read this summer NOT from the list under 250 pages is worth 1 point, and any book over 250 pages is worth 2 points (assuming grade and content appropriate).

Required books have an assigned point value listed above. Every grade except incoming 11th graders will need to read at least one book in addition to their required book listed above (the 11th grade book is worth 4 points, so their requirement is met - though they are encouraged to read more). Keep track of your titles as you read this summer; see the website to print a blank list where you can record the titles and authors of the books you read.

Students will submit their summer reading list (signed by both student and parent) to their first period teacher the first week back in September. Summer reading is worth 20 points in English and will be the first assignment of the first trimester (see below for more information on this assignment). Summer reading for secondary students will be used for three incentive programs: pizza lunch for 50+ points, prizes at secondary retreat, and the first house competition of the year.

8th English: You may earn 8 points each for reading *The Two Towers* and *The Return of the King*.

11th-12th English: You may earn 6 points for reading Dante's *Paradiso* (on the reserve list for younger grades).

10th-12th Honors English: You will have a required title to read during the summer as part of the Honors curriculum. This title WILL count toward the required points and for totals for house competition and prizes at fall retreat. Honors students are also required to read the designated grade-level book.

Reading Lists

Reading lists were created with several key factors in mind: appropriateness of content, level of challenge, and overall fit with each grade level curriculum. To encourage a wide range of reading, students must read books they haven't previously read for the four required points. All books listed are the *unabridged* editions.

Students should refrain from reading from the Reserved Book List for English classes they have not yet taken. This will avoid frustration for both student and teacher when those books are read in class. However, if students read a book from the Reserved List that they previously studied in class (at least one year ago), they will receive

summer reading points. Parents are strongly encouraged to read from this list as well, to better familiarize themselves with the books their children will be reading throughout the school year. Book lists for each grade level, as well as the Reserved Book list, can be found on the school's website.

<https://www.pccs.org/parents-students-alumni/secondary-class-resources/>

Rewards

1. Pizza Lunch for 50+ Points – In the past some students have embraced the challenge of summer reading so enthusiastically that they exceeded 50 points worth of reading material. To celebrate this achievement, any student earning 50 or more points will be invited to join the members of the English department at a pizza lunch in the fall to discuss and share their favorite books. To participate meaningfully in that discussion, please keep notes in your books or in a notebook to help you recall the salient points of each book -- such as how and when main characters change and why, striking imagery you can share with others, things that surprised, delighted, or challenged you from the book, and so forth. Brief notes are fine as long as they help trigger your memory of what you have read over the summer.

2. Prizes at Secondary Retreat – Prizes will be given to individual students based on the number of points accumulated during summer reading. Prizes include things like food, candy, and gift cards (Amazon, Target, etc.).

3. House Competition – Summer reading is the first House competition. An average point value will be calculated by house, and house points awarded for 1st through 6th place. For the house reading points, no student may represent more than 30% of the total points for his/her house (see more info in the Q and A section).

Questions and Answers

- *Is summer reading graded?*

Yes. Simply submit your signed summer reading list (with at least 4 points) by the due date below and you will earn 20/20 on the first literature assignment for the first trimester. Forms not turned in by the end of the first week will be treated as any other late assignment.

- *What happens if I don't submit a form, or submit my form without a parent signature?*

To earn your 20 points (out of 20) on your first English assignment, you must submit a signed form by **Friday, September 5**. Only forms with a signature from both student and parent will count toward the house points.

- *How are the summer reading points calculated per house?*

Because houses have different numbers of students, the total points will be divided by the number of students per house for a final average per person. Remember that the maximum percentage that any one person may contribute to your overall total is 30%.

- *What if I only completed a portion of a book but didn't finish it?*

Go ahead and write in the number of pages you read. Partial points *may* be given by the CESR (Committee for Equality in Summer Reading).

- *Does reading the Bible count toward points?*

The four required points should be from non-Bible reading. After the first four points, every 40 Bible chapters will count as 1 point.

- *What if I read a book not on the recommended list that I think is worth more than 2 points?*

If you read a book not on the list that you feel should be worth more, please let Mr. Evans know via email and he will bring it to CESR. In your email, please include the title and author of the book and the number of pages, and the CESR will get back to you as soon as possible.