

# BRITISH LITERATURE



# SUMMER READING

## DIRECTIONS

This booklet is comprised of titles representing authors with an English background. You are asked to read the following title and be prepared to discuss and complete a writing exercise in the opening days of school in the Fall.

Austen, Jane.

### **PRIDE AND PREJUDICE.**

Mrs. Bennett scrambles to find husbands for her five daughters in this gentle satire on the foibles and prejudices of human nature.

In addition, you are asked to read another title of your choosing from the list.

An annotated listing may be found on the Holy Names Academy website by clicking on [Academics](#) and then [Reading Lists](#) on the sidebar.

URL: <http://www.holynames-sea.org>

## NOVELS

Bronte, Charlotte.

### **JANE EYRE**

A young governess arrives at Thornfield, a country manor shrouded in mystery and haunted by wild cries, where she is to care for Adele, daughter of Mr. Rochester.

Bronte, Emily.

### **WUTHERING HEIGHTS.**

Forced by a storm to spend the night at the home of the somber Heathcliff, Mr. Lockwood uncovers a tale of terror and hatred on the Yorkshire moors.

Carroll, Lewis.

### **ALICE IN WONDERLAND.**

A little girl falls down a rabbit hole and discovers a world of nonsensical and amusing characters.

Courtney, Bryce.

### **POWER OF ONE.**

Peekay, an lonely English boy, lives in South Africa during World War II. He befriends two men, one black and one white, who show him how to find the courage to dream and succeed and that he has the power to effect change.

Dickens, Charles.

### **A CHRISTMAS CAROL.**

The miserly Ebenezer Scrooge hated the humbug of Christmas until one Christmas Eve when three ghosts took him on journeys through the past, the present and future.

Dickens, Charles.

### **A TALE OF TWO CITIES.**

The lives of Alexander Manette and his daughter, Lucie, and those of Charles Darnay and Sydney Carton become entangled during the French Revolution.

Doyle, Arthur Conan.

### **THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES.**

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson avert a tragedy which centers upon the legendary ghost of the hound which slew Sir Charles' wicked ancestor in 1648.

Eliot, George (Marianne Evans)

### **SILAS MARNER.**

Being falsely accused of theft does not touch the goodness of a man who opens his heart to a homeless child.

Eliot, T. S.

### **MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL.**

Told in dramatic verse, this is the story of Thomas Becket, the bishop of Canterbury, who was murdered because of his disagreements with Henry VIII.

Forster, E. M.

### **A ROOM WITH A VIEW.**

Romantic relationships lead to conventional happiness in this comedy set in upper-middle-class Edwardian society.

Golding, William.

### **LORD OF THE FLIES.**

Innocence ends and savagery emerges when English schoolboys stranded on a desert island attempt to set up a civilization of their own.

Hardy, Thomas.

### **TESS OF THE D'UBERVILLES.**

This is the anguished story of Tess as she struggles against the relentless circumstances of sensuality, avarice, selfishness and indifference toward human welfare.

Hersey, John.

### **A BELL FOR ADONO.**

In the Italian village of Adano, Major Joppolo tries to replace the town's bell and gain the respect of the villagers.

Huxley, Aldous.

**BRAVE NEW WORLD.**

In this chilling vision of the future, babies are produced in bottles and exist in a mechanized world without soul.

Joyce, James.

**A PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A YOUNG MAN.**

This autobiographical novel recounts the life of Stephen Dedalus from his childhood until an accomplished writer.

Kipling, Rudyard.

**KIM.**

The orphan son of an Irish soldier has many adventures during the days of British rule in India.

Mason, Daniel.

**THE PIANO TUNER.**

Edgar Drake, a piano tuner, is sent to Burma by the British War office in 1886 for the purpose of repairing a rare piano for a surgeon who is critical to the British efforts in Burma.

Orwell, George.

**1984.**

Winston Smith lives in the futuristic city of London where 'Big Brother' is watching all the time and your thoughts are controlled. He has memory and joins The Brotherhood dedicated to the destruction of those in power.

Sparks, Muriel.

**THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE.**

Young, pretty and charismatic, Jean teaches in an all girls' school in Scotland. She has a secret and one of the girls will betray her.

Stoker, Bram.

**DRACULA.**

A count from Transylvania travels to England in search of new blood. It is after several disastrous events that he is finally caught.

Tolkein, J.R.R.

**THE HOBBIT.**

Bilbo Baggins, a little person, lives quite comfortably until a wandering wizard grants his wish and thereby enters a dangerous, yet exciting, adventure searching for his ancestral home and reclaiming a stolen treasure.

Tolkein, J.R.R.

**THE LORD OF THE RINGS.**

The trilogy which picks up where The Hobbit leaves off and tells of Frodo, Gandolf, the mysterious stranger, Strider, and several others and their quest to take the Ring across Middle Earth and destroy it. You may read one or all three of these titles:

The Fellowship of the Ring

The Two Towers

The Return of the King

White, T. H.

**THE ONCE AND FUTURE KING.**

Sir Thomas Mallory's book Le Morte Darthur is the basis of this retelling of the story of King Arthur from his birth until his death.

Wilde, Oscar.

**THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY.**

A handsome young man's portrait becomes a mirror, increasingly grotesque, of his true inner self.

## SHORT STORIES

Dahl, Roald.

### **THE BEST OF ROALD DAHL.**

A cross between O'Henry and Stephen King, these 25 tantalizing stories create events that are not what they seem and finish with many of surprise.

Gordimer, Nadine.

### **JUMP AND OTHER STORIES.**

The author revisits South Africa where she writes of children and adults that are caught in political intrigues they cannot control nor understand.

Joyce, James.

### **DUBLINERS.**

The author paints vivid portraits of its denizens in this collection of short stories set in Dublin.

Lessing, Doris.

### **AFRICAN STORIES.**

These stories dramatize race relations in small towns and on farms focusing particularly on the confusion and brutalization of the whites.

Mansfield, Dorothy.

### **THE GARDEN PARTY AND OTHER STORIES.**

This book of short stories contains the author's classic story about a garden party which continues uninterrupted by a neighborhood death.

## BIOGRAPHY

Browning, Elizabeth Barrett.

### **ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING: A BIOGRAPHY.**

by Margaret Forster.

Forster presents the poet as a role model who is a serious poet without sacrificing love, marriage and mother-hood.

DuMaurier, Daphne.

### **DAPHNE DU MAURIER: THE SECRET LIFE OF THE RENOWNED STORYTELLER.**

by Margaret Drabble.

Drabble explores the hidden drama of this writer: her stifling relationship with her father; her troubled marriage; her wartime love affair; and her romantic attachment to actress Gertrude Lawrence.

Lewis, C. S.

### **SHADOWLANDS.**

The author tells the story of his relationship and marriage to Joy Gresham.

Markham, Beryl.

### **WEST WITH THE NIGHT,**

The author tells of growing up in East Africa, becoming a bush pilot and making the first solo flight east to west across the Atlantic in 1936.