

BRITISH LITERATURE HONORS



SUMMER READING

DIRECTIONS

This booklet is comprised of titles representing authors with an English background. You are asked to read the following two titles and to 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 own choice from the list.

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

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

NOVELS

Austen, Jane.

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY.

Two sisters share the pangs of tragic love and, although they have opposing temperaments, their suffering brings them closer.

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.

Set in the wild moors of England, this is a story of intense and frustrated lives, of hate and revenge.

Conrad, Joseph.

HEART OF DARKNESS.

In the steamy jungles of the Belgian Congo, Euro-pean ivory trader, Kurtz, reverts to native savagery in a journey to the black center of the human soul.

Defoe, Daniel.

ROBINSON CRUSOE.

A young seaman shipwrecked for twenty-four years struggles for survival and meaning, and becomes reborn in faith, and a master of himself.

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.

HOUD OF THE BASKERVILLES.

Sherlock Holmes is asked to investigate the tale of a hound that haunts the lonely moors around the Baskervilles' ancestral home.

Eliot, George (Marianne Evans).

MIDDLEMARCH.

A portrait of nineteenth century English provincial life focuses upon Dorothea Brooks, her two marriages, Dr. Lydgate, and the Vincy family.

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 little child.

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.

Greene, Graham.

THE POWER AND THE GLORY.

Anti-clerical attitudes of Mexico in 1930's provide background for this tale of Father Montez, who tries to escape arrest, and dies giving all to the poor.

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.

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.

PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST AS A YOUNG MAN.

An autobiographical novel depicts the childhood, adolescence, and early manhood of Stephan Dedalus.

Kipling, Rudyard.

KIM.

Everyday life during the days of British rule in India comes alive in the adventures of an orphan son of an Irish soldier.

Llywelyn, Morgan.

1916.

The fictional character of Ned Halloran learns of Irish history through the efforts of Padraic Pearse in his Irish school. The story climaxes with a blow by blow account of the Easter Rebellion in Dublin.

Naipaul, V. S.

A BEND IN THE RIVER.

After recent civil war a country in Africa's interior is experiencing the insane energy and cruelty of a new president, even in the small village at the bend of the river.

Orwell, George.

1984.

In a society of the future, individual privacy is invaded as the Thought Police persuade the people that 'War is Peace —Freedom is Slavery—Ignorance is Strength.'

Smith, Zadie.

WHITE TEETH.

Set in London, this is the story of Archie and his friend Samad and their children, whose struggle for identity touches issues of race, colonialism, gender, class and religion.

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.

Swift, Jonathan.

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS.

Adventures among the miniature inhabitants of Lilliput, the giants of Brobdingnag, the immortal Strudlbrugs, and the reasoning Houyhnhnms are told in a masterful satire.

Tolkein, J.R.R.

THE HOBBIT.

Bilbo Baggins, a little person, lives quite comfortably until a wandering wizard grants his wish and 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.

King Arthur grows from a glorious youth through the disillusioned early years as king to his maturity with the Round Table and finally his old age.

Wilde, Oscar.

THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY.

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

Woolf, Virginia.

MRS. DALLOWAY.

As Clarissa Dalloway prepares for a party, she reflects on the events and people who have entered her life over the years.

Woolf, Virginia

A ROOM OF ONE'S OWN.

Speculating on the life of Shakespeare's imaginary sister, the author explores the need for a writer to have a space or 'room' of her own.

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.

With topics ranging from the dynamics of family life to the worldwide confusion of human values, these stories give access to many lives from London, Mozambique, a mythical island, and finally, to South Africa.

Joyce, James.

DUBLINERS.

This collection of short stories paints vivid portraits of the denizens of the city of Dublin, the author's birthplace.

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 serious without sacrificing love, marriage and motherhood.

DuMaurier, Daphne.

DAPHNE DUMAURIER: 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.

NON-FICTION

Wollstonecraft, Mary.

VINDICATION OF THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN.

Written in England in 1792, this presents an argument for the emancipation of women.