



Dear Parents,

The TCS English department believes comprehension and retention to be vital for academic success; through the summer reading program, students strengthen these skills. Additionally, we want to encourage our students to become lifelong readers. Summer learning loss or setback, often referred to as the “summer slide,” is a devastating loss of academic achievement students experience during the summer months. One of the most effective means of improving reading achievement levels is supplying students with engaging and comprehensive reading materials. Increased time reading can improve reading, writing, spelling ability, cultivate larger vocabularies, and develop understanding of complex grammatical structures (Krashen, 2009). When schools close for the summer, students’ reading opportunities diminish.

Each grade, 6th - 12th, has been assigned ONE novel to read with a choice board for their second selection. **Students are to complete their reading of two novels before the first day of school.** There will be an assessment over both novels within the first quarter. The assessment will not be in the form of a written test, multiple choice, T/F, or open-ended questions; instead, students will complete a project, Socratic Seminar, and/or essay the first week of school that will require them to demonstrate a thorough understanding of both novels by analyzing the characters, and plot using textual evidence. To help with retention, we suggest students take notes, summarize chapters and annotate as they read; however, student reading notes/annotations are not required and will not be taken for a grade.

We ask that you help your son/daughter select their second novel. The list of books for the second novel choice gives students a diverse selection. We recommend Focus on the Family’s Pluggedin (<https://www.pluggedin.com/>) to help you navigate through the selections to find the novel best suited for your child. Students may not choose an illustrated or condensed version as a substitute for any novel. Viewing movies in lieu of reading is not permitted.

If your student has any questions concerning the reading assignment, they are welcome to contact Mrs. Smith at [ksmith@tcseagles.org](mailto:ksmith@tcseagles.org).

Happy Reading!

TCS English Department

*Temple Christian School exists to inspire our students with the passion to learn, the courage to lead, and the commitment to serve through Biblical worldview education, so they may change the world with the power of the Gospel.*