

WCA Incoming 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th Grade Summer Reading Requirements

Students entering *Collegiate Critical Thinking* or *AP Literature* have separate Summer Reading Requirements. Please see WCA's website for those requirements.

Parents -

More than anything, we want West-Mont students to be readers. We want them to read widely and deeply, and enjoy reading. As many adults can also attest, reading takes focus and as we rely on short-form, electronic reading more and more, reading becomes more difficult for students and adults alike.

This summer, we are focusing on novels students choose, rather than on official reading lists. The idea is simple: reading for joy. This doesn't mean that reading will be automatic or necessarily easy, and we ask parents to partner with us to help students choose engaging, age-appropriate novels.

All current high school WCA students created a GoodReads.com account before leaving for the summer. This platform allows students to list and rate books they have read. They can also keep a list of "Books To Read" based on suggestions from GoodReads. Students do not have to have a GoodReads account, but if a student is struggling to come up with books to read, this is the first place I would send him/her for help.

They were also required to submit the name of the two books they will read this summer, plus a third, alternate book, in case they do not like one of the two first choices, to Mrs. Estes, for approval. (Book must be fiction, reading-level appropriate, at least 250 pages, and ok'ed by parent or guardian.)

We do not want the focus of summer reading to be in the assignment due at the end of the summer. Instead, we want the focus to be on the reading itself. So, students will give a short, 3-5 minute presentation in class for each book he/she read in September. Students will also receive TWO TEST GRADES for completing summer reading. (We will also ask that they fill out an "Honesty Form," indicating how much of their summer reading they were able to complete.)

If students complete the summer reading and presentation, they will receive 100% on two tests at the beginning of the first quarter. This is an excellent beginning to their academic year.

New students: Fill out the form below and turn it in the Mrs. Pettis. She will get it to me.

Happy reading,
Mrs. Estes

How Will I Present the Book in September?

The presentation will be timed. You must cover all the information below in 6 minutes or less. Your teacher will help you by giving you quiet notification at 3 minutes and at 5 minutes. Why is the presentation timed? Students will frequently feel nervous as they present, and in their nervousness, simply begin sharing the plot of the book. However, your presentation does not require you to share plot. You are not required to have notecards to share, but you may, as long as you also focus on eye contact with your whole audience as well. The presentation should be informal and it is designed to create a “community of readers” in our English classes.

At the beginning of each presentation, you will share the following the following information with the class: The title, author, and setting of book. In addition, you will identify the protagonist(s) and antagonist(s) by name.

The central concept of the presentation, is to explore the personality and beliefs of the protagonist.

Who is the protagonist? (If there are several, you may pick your favorite.)

What are three character traits of the protagonist? For each trait, read a quote, including page number, for a quote where you learn of this trait. (If these are library books and must be returned, feel free to write the quotes down on notecards. The book can then be returned.)

Lastly, explain how the protagonist evolves and changes throughout the novel. Without revealing any spoilers, what changes do you see in the protagonist by the end?

At the end of each presentation, identify a key theme of the book. If you are unsure of the definition of “theme”, review online.

The Summer Reading Books I Choose

Student Name: _____ Incoming Grade: _____

Will you be returning to WCA next year? Circle: Yes/No

If you will not be returning, you are obviously exempted from this assignment. However, you must let Mrs. Estes know, so that your fourth quarter grade is accurate. If you are not sure, and there is the teeniest-tiniest chance you may return, fill out this form.

Book 1 (must be fiction, reading-level appropriate, at least 250 pages, and ok'ed by parent or guardian. Mrs. Estes reserves the right to determine "age-appropriate.")

Title: _____

Author: _____

Number of Pages (Check Amazon for page counts): _____

Book 2 (must be fiction, reading-level appropriate, at least 250 pages, and ok'ed by parent or guardian. Mrs. Estes reserves the right to determine "age-appropriate.")

Title: _____

Author: _____

Number of Pages (Check Amazon for page counts): _____

Alternate Book (in case student does not like one of the two books above and does not care to finish it.)

(Must be fiction, reading-level appropriate, at least 250 pages, and ok'ed by parent or guardian. Mrs. Estes reserves the right to determine "age-appropriate.")

Title: _____

Author: _____

Number of Pages (Check Amazon for page counts): _____

Mrs. Estes Approval: _____ Date: _____