



Phyl's Academy Preparatory School

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Dear Parents,

Can you imagine that summertime is here again? We have enjoyed working with your students! We have seen such growth this year and desire that each child continues from strength to strength.

To this end, we have some summer resource material and a grade-appropriate reading list available. A minimum of three books should be read over the summer.

Requirements:

Entering 9th -12th grade, complete two (2) book projects over the summer, one of which should be a book report and the other in the form of a creative project.

(The rubric for all projects is included in this packet)

The assignments must be returned on the first day of school in August to be included in the Language Arts grade for the first marking period.

Summer reading is meant to be fun and relaxing! The enclosed reading list offers a selection of enjoyable, age-appropriate literature. We have also attached the format to be used for written reports and suggestions for creative projects. Students who read over the summer return to school ready to continue their learning with little or no learning loss. The important thing is that students read, read, read!!!

Respectfully,

Ms. Afua

Summer Reading List and Assignment for Students Entering Grades Ninth - Twelfth

This summer we are giving you a choice of reading two books for your summer reading.

These books can be accessed for free via PDF, found at the library, purchased on Amazon, or any place books are sold. Each book is linked to a free format.

Entering Ninth Grade

- [*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe](#)
- [*Red Queen* by Victoria Aveyard](#)
- [*To Kill a Mocking Bird*](#)
- [*The Hate You Give* by Angie Thomas](#)

Entering Tenth Grade:

- [*The Pearl* by John Steinbeck](#)
- [*The Scarlet Letter* By Nathaniel Hawthorne](#)
- [*A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry](#)
- [*The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan](#)

Entering Eleventh Grade:

- [*Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah](#)
- [*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot](#)
- [*HomeGoing* by Yaa Gyasi](#)
- [*Until Tuesday* by Luis Carlos Montalvan](#)

Entering Twelfth Grade:

- [*Night* by Elie Wiesel](#)
- [*The Autobiography of Malcolm X* by Alex Haley & Malcolm X](#)
- [*Beloved* by Toni Morrison](#)
- [*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak](#)

Assignment One (book 1): Book Review

For the remainder of the summer, you will be tasked with creating a book review for any book of your choosing. Use the guidelines below to create an effective book review:

- a. Font: Times New Roman, 12pt, Double Spaced
- b. Top left header: You name, teachers name, Class (English), Date
- c. Top Middle: Title

Example:

John Doe

Ms. Faith

English I

17 June 2025

Review of *Thing Fall Apart* By Chinua Achebe

1. Introduction: An eye - catching introduction to the book that mentions the title of the book and the author. This is to gain your audience's attention (it could be a question or making a connection).

2. 1st Body paragraph: Short Summary: Provide a short summary of the book IN YOUR OWN WORDS! Do not use SparkNotes or any other website to write the summary or you will automatically receive a zero!

3. Analysis: This is the main part of your book review and should be the bulk of your essay. Here is how your analysis should be broken down.
 - 2nd Body Paragraph:
 - Describe two main themes in the book and give examples from the book. Themes include: Love, Greed, Loneliness, Good v. Evil, Revenge, Coming of Age, etc.
 - What do you believe is the main goal of the book? Did the author achieve it? How?
 - 3rd Body Paragraph
 - What did you like best about the book? What did you like least about the book?
 - Do you relate to any of the characters? Did the author effectively describe the characters or did they leave unanswered questions about parts of the character?

Conclusion and Final Recommendation: Did you enjoy the book? Why or why not? Do you recommend this book? Why or why not? End your review strong!!

Your book review must be a 5 paragraph essay typed in Times New Roman, 12pt font, double spaced with proper MLA heading.

You may be asked to give a short synopsis of your book in class so be prepared!!

Essay Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Grammar	No grammatical errors. Sentences are clear, varied, and precise.	Few grammatical errors. Sentences are generally clear and easy to follow.	Multiple grammatical errors, but meaning is still clear	Frequent grammatical errors that hinder readability.
Formatting	Perfect adherence to required format. Consistent font, spacing, and margin usage.	Minor formatting issues. Generally consistent font, spacing, and margins	Noticeable formatting errors. Inconsistent use of font, spacing, or margins.	Major formatting errors. Does not follow the prescribed format.
Summary	Clear, accurate, and concise summary of the book's plot. Major events are well explained.	Adequate plot summary. Most important events are mentioned, but lacks some clarity or detail.	Plot summary is incomplete or overly simplistic. Key events are missing or unclear	Plot summary is unclear, inaccurate, or incomplete. Key events are missing.
Book Analysis	Insightful analysis of themes, characters, and literary devices. Strong, detailed connections to the book's message	Solid analysis of themes, characters, and literary devices. Makes some good connections to the book's message	Basic analysis, with some connection to themes and characters, but lacks depth	Weak or minimal analysis. Little connection to themes or characters. Misses literary devices.

16-14: Excellent (A)**13-11: Good (B)****10-8: Fair (C)****7 or below: Needs Improvement (D/F)**

Assignment Two (book 2): Creative book report

Creative Book Report and Requirements

All students from 1st -12th grade are required to make a Creative book report on the same Summer Reading Book. Students should be able to present in class.

Please choose one from the list below.

→ **1. Design and make your own t-shirt.**

- Illustrate a scene or character from the book on a t-shirt.
- Write a short summary of the scene and explain why it is important to the story.
- If you choose to illustrate a character, write a description of the character and why he or she is important to the story.

All genres

→ **2. Create a mobile from items related to the story.**

- Select 10 items that represent people, places, events, or other parts of the book and hang them from a hanger using string or yarn.
- Write a key that explains each object and why you chose it.

All genres

→ **3. Make two “wanted” posters for 2 characters in the book.**

- Choose 2 characters from the book for which you will make posters.
- Research sample wanted posters.
- Information to include on your poster: the “crime,” physical description, where the character was last seen, and reward amount.

All genres

→ **4. Make a new book jacket for the book.**

- Front cover: Draw an illustration for the book.
- Inside front flap: Write descriptions of the main characters.
- Inside back flap: Write a description of the setting and a short summary of the book.
- Back cover: Write 5-10 quotes from the book that are important to understanding the story.

All genres

→ **5. Create a collage to represent the book.**

- Your collage should have at least 10 photos or illustrations.
- Write a key describing each item on the collage.

All genres

→ **6. Write a comic book version of your book.**

- Use 8 ½ x 11-inch paper (Create the book on the full page or folded hamburger-style.)
- Comics should be colored.

Fiction (Realistic, Historical); Mystery; Fantasy

→ **7. Create a book in a bag.**

- Choose 10 items that represent people, places, events, and other parts of the book.
- Place them in a brown paper bag.
- Create a label for your bag that includes the title and author.
- Write a key describing each of the items and explain their importance to the story.

All genres

→ **8. Write a letter to the author that shows your reaction to the book.**

- Include all elements of a friendly letter (date, greeting, body, closing, & signature).
- Include:
 1. Your opinion of the book and the reasons for your opinion
 2. The character in the book you are most like and why
 3. Your favorite part of the book
 4. At least 2 questions you have about the book
 5. Make sure you include your home or school address in the letter.
 6. Include an addressed envelope with your return address & the author's address.
(Check the back of the book or author's Website for the author's address.)
 7. You may also send the letter directly to the publisher, which should be on the copyright page of the book.)

All genres

→ **9. Write out an interview between you and a character.**

- Write 10 questions to ask your character.
- Then, answer each question as you think the character would respond.

All genres

→ **10. Create a "Ten Facts About [Book Title]" handout.**

- Create a fact sheet of 10 facts you found out during reading but did not know before you read the book.

Nonfiction/Informational; Biography & Autobiography

→ **11. Create a board or card game about the book.**

- The game should include details about the setting, characters, and plot to show knowledge of the book.

- Include instructions about how to play.

All genres

→ **12. Draw, paint, or color portraits of a character.**

- Include a description of the character you draw or paint. (What does he or she look like? How old is he or she? What type of person is she? Why is he or she important to the story?)

All genres

→ **13. Write 3 diary entries that a character would write that include details about the story.**

- Diary entries should be at least 10 sentences each.
- Diary entries can be typed or handwritten.

Fiction (Realistic, Historical); Mystery; Fantasy; Biography or Autobiography

→ **14. Create an illustrated timeline showing important events from the book.** Choose at least 10 important events from the story.

Write a description of each event, and draw & color an illustration for each event. The events must be in the order in which they occurred.

All genres

→ **15. Create a diorama of a scene from the book.**

Create a scene from the book in a shoebox. Write a description of what the scene shows.

All genres

→ **16. Make a map of places where the story took place.**

The map should be colored. Write a description of what each place is and why it is important.

All genres

→ **17. Create a sculpture of a character.**

Use modeling clay or paper-mâché to sculpt a character. Write a description of who the character is and why he or she is important.

All genres

→ **18. Make 3 drawings of important scenes from the book.**

Drawings should be colored. Write a description of what each scene is and why it is important.

All genres

→ **19. Write a letter to the main character of your book asking questions, making a complaint or a suggestion, or writing your opinion about something that happened in the story.**

Include all elements of a friendly letter (date, greeting, body, closing, & signature).

Fiction (Realistic, Historical); Mystery; Fantasy; Biography & Autobiography

→ **20. Prepare a travel brochure for a book.**

Create a colorful brochure based on the setting of your book. Give reasons people should want to visit this location. Describe what occurred in this location in the book.

Fiction (Realistic, Historical); Mystery; Fantasy

→ **21. Send three postcards from one of the characters to your teacher.**

On the back of each postcard, write a short summary of an important event from the story. On the front, illustrate that event.

Fiction (Realistic, Historical); Mystery; Fantasy

→ **22. Create a book award.**

Choose a book award to give to your book. Create a ribbon for the award. Draw and color the book cover, and place the book award ribbon on the cover. On the back of the book cover, explain why you are giving the award to the book.

All genres

→ **23. Create a CD album cover.**

On one side of the cover, come up with 10 song titles that represent characters, events, or settings in the book. Below your titles, write a short summary of the book. Illustrate the cover on the other side, and include the title of the book.

All genres

→ **24. Create a picture story for your book.**

Rewrite the book for a Kindergarten or 1st-grade audience. Use short sentences and age-appropriate words so that they can read them easily. Make sure to include all major parts of the story. Illustrate each page to go along with the story. Fiction (Realistic, Historical); Mystery; Fantasy

→ **25. Write a report card for a character in your book.**

Choose a character in your book. Come up with 5 areas of his or her personality to grade based on how the character behaved in the story. Write the character's name at the top of the page. Give the character a grade in each subject, and give details from the story to support the grade in the Comments section.

See the example below.

All genres Student: Prince Brat Subject Grade Comments Loyalty C In the beginning, Prince Brat told Jemmy to the thieves. Later, he protected Jemmy from them.

→ **26. Write a new ending for the story or add an extra chapter.**

Fiction (Realistic, Historical, Mystery)

→ **27. Write a test for the book you read.**

Use information from the book you read to create a test that you could give other readers to check their understanding of the story. The test should include matching, multiple-choice, and short answer questions. Vocabulary section: Use 5 words and their definitions. Comprehension section: Write 15 questions about the characters, events, and setting of the story.

All genres

→ **28. Create a sports trading card for a sports figure.**

On the front, draw and color a picture of the person. On the back, write the person's statistics: name; birthday; hometown; high school or university attended; sport played; how did he or she get started in the sport; important accomplishments. Biography & Autobiography

→ **29. Create a Venn diagram to show similarities and differences in the traits of the main character and yourself.**

Have at least 5 similarities between the main character and you. Have at least 5 differences for the main character and 5 differences for you (no repeats!) A minimum total of written pieces of information = 15

Fiction (Realistic, Historical, Mystery); Biography & Autobiography

→ **30. PowerPoint**

All genres

For Fiction (Realistic, Historical); Mystery; Fantasy:

- Slide 1: title, author, publication date.
- Slide 2: brief plot outline of main events of the story.
- Slide 3: main character list complete with physical & personality descriptions
- Slide 4: a description of the setting.
- Slide 5: your favorite quote or part of the book with an explanation of why it's your favorite.
- Slide 6: create a book review paragraph complete with 1-5 star rating and why.
- Slides 7-10: free choice slides.

For Nonfiction/Informational; Biography or Autobiography:

- Slide 1: title, author, publication date.
- Slide 2: main character list complete with physical & personality descriptions.
- Slide 3: a description of the setting.
- Slide 4-13: ten facts you learned from the book.
- Slide 14: your favorite part of the book with an explanation of why it's your favorite.
- Slide 15: create a book review paragraph complete with 1-5 star rating and why.