



2020 Upper School Summer Reading Challenge

This summer, JCS challenges you to be part of a Universe of Stories.

Jupiter Christian School understands the importance of continued reading, especially throughout the summer. Just 15 minutes of reading each day can maintain and even increase literacy levels, thus avoiding the "summer slide." Further, we want to encourage lifelong reading for both growth and personal enjoyment.

So what is the CHALLENGE??

- Read whatever you wish.

"It is what you read when you don't have to that determines what you will be when you can't help it." - Oscar Wilde

- **IMPORTANT:** Track your participation by completing the attached reading log, and turn it in to your English teacher in August for a small formative grade.

- **REQUIRED:** Read a minimum of 12 hours.

- Read independently.
- Read with others, especially children!

Benefits of reading with others

JCS Alum ('19) Jackson Eagan writes:

Literature is the most powerful aspect of human existence. For as long as history has existed, we have told stories in one way or another. It is how we connect our lives, our pasts, and our dreams to one another. It is one of the most special ways we as creations of God reflect His image, as He was the original storyteller. This is why illiteracy is one of the worst vices that has grown from our fallen world.



Illiteracy is the inability to read or write at the level deemed average by the population. It exists in some form in every people group on the planet.

Illiteracy often develops during what is known in Psychology as the "critical period". During this time, a child's brain reaches its peak development efficiency as connections called synapses connect to each other and build new neural networks at unbelievable speed! Psychologists believe that this period, from birth to about age seven, is the most important time to learn skills, and that in order to master any skill, the foundations must be learned and practiced during this time. This includes language skills. Helping children practice their literary skills during this time is the most important thing we can do to help them become successful readers and students!

Reading aloud to a child as early as a few months after birth can set a child on the right path to successful reading. Even after a child has learned to read, this practice can help them develop their skills and strengthen their skills. During the critical period, a process called pruning also takes place. During pruning, a child's brain strengthens skills that are often used and removes or detaches connections that are not. This is why practicing reading aloud is critical to helping children become skilled and experienced readers.

Suggested Reading List

Unsure of where to begin? Check out our *suggested* reading list compiled by our Upper School English Department to get started! Note: This list is NOT mandatory, but offers a wide range of literary classics and non-fiction options. We ask that parents continue to screen their child's digital/print media consumption and make the final decision on all selections. Happy Reading!

7th Grade

- Prince Caspian by C.S. Lewis
- Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan
- The Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom
- Hoot by Carl Hiaasen
- Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

8th Grade Honors & Standard

- The Call of the Wild by Jack London
- Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes
- The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane
- Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
- The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

English I Honors & Standard

- 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens – Sean Covey
- Shadow of the Almighty by Elisabeth Elliott
- A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park
- The Old Man and The Sea by Ernest Hemingway
- The Yearling by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings
- Dug Down Deep by Josh Harris

English II Standard

- Oedipus Rex – Sophocles
- Anthem – Ayn Rand
- The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas
- Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis
- Growing Up Christian: Have You Taken Ownership of your Relationship with Jesus- Karl Graustein
- Night - Eli Wiesel
- Through Gates of Splendor — Elisabeth Elliot And the Word Came with Power - Joanne Shetler

Honors American Literature & Standard American Literature

- The American Spirit: Who We Are and What We Stand For? - David McCullough
- Evidence Not Seen: A Woman's Miraculous Faith in the Jungles of World War II- Darlene Deibler Rose
- A Raisin in the Sun – Lorraine Hansberry
- Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream — David Platt
- Hope Unseen — Captain Scoot Smiley

Dual Enrollment & English IV

- Outliers: The Story of Success — Malcolm Gladwell
- Frankenstein – Mary Shelley
- 1984 – George Orwell
- Fearless - Eric Blehm
- Kisses from Katie — Katie Davis

*Students enrolled in AP Literature must complete the mandatory summer reading and corresponding assignments.

