

British Literature Summer Reading

Welcome to LaGrange Academy British Literature. The following books have been chosen to complement the novels and themes that you may cover in *British Literature*. I hope you will take the task seriously and choose books that truly interest you so that we can get off to a great start. If you have any questions at all regarding the assignment, please feel free to contact me at teresakrizay@lagrangeacademy.org.

Choosing the right books for you

Not all books are appropriate for all readers. Please note that some books may contain explicit language, sexual references, or mature subject matter. Thus, it is suggested that parents help their students make appropriate summer reading selections. To read descriptions and reviews of all the books, go to www.goodreads.com/book/explore. If you are unhappy with your choice, feel free to make another selection from the list provided.

Requirement #1 – Read one (1) or more books

You are required to read **1 or more** books by the first day of class. The number of pages read must exceed **300 pages**. You may read one book that exceeds 300 pages or you may read multiple books that add cumulatively to 300 or more pages. You may select any piece of literature you wish as long as it is considered a quality piece of literature (no Nicholas Sparks or fluff books) and contains has been written by a British author. You may not read books that were a part of any previous year's curriculum. Suggestion: Read one book in June and one in July. Use a calendar to determine the number of pages you'll read each day or week, and then stick to your plan.

Do not assume that this requirement can be met by only watching a movie based on a book. Movies often vary from the actual book and you will not be able to complete your assignment using this method.

Requirement #2 – Complete the three steps outlined after the list of books

On the first day of school, submit your completed work. Follow the directions as outlined on the following page. The work will not be accepted after Friday of the first week. **If for some reason, you cannot fully meet this requirement, hand in the best work of which you are capable. Do not start the year with a zero or forfeit credit on a book which you have, in fact, read.**

British Literature Summer Reading List

*****You may select a book from this list or substitute a book of your choice, please see the instructions on the previous page for selection guidelines*****

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

The prelude to *THE LORD OF THE RINGS*. Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely traveling any farther than his pantry or cellar. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on an adventure.

The Curious Incident of in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon

Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow.

Me Before You by JoJo Moyes

They had nothing in common until love gave them everything to lose . . .

Louisa Clark is an ordinary girl living an exceedingly ordinary life—steady boyfriend, close family—who has barely been farther afield than their tiny village. She takes a badly needed job working for ex-Master of the Universe Will Traynor, who is wheelchair bound after an accident. Will has always lived a huge life—big deals, extreme sports, worldwide travel—and now he’s pretty sure he cannot live the way he is.

Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman

Meet Eleanor Oliphant: She struggles with appropriate social skills and tends to say exactly what she’s thinking. Nothing is missing in her carefully timetabled life of avoiding social interactions, where weekends are punctuated by frozen pizza, vodka, and phone chats with Mummy. But everything changes when Eleanor meets Raymond, the bumbling and deeply unhygienic IT guy from her office.

The Thirteenth Tale by Diane Setterfield

Reclusive author Vida Winter, famous for her collection of twelve enchanting stories, has spent the past six decades penning a series of alternate lives for herself. Now old and ailing, she is ready to reveal the truth about her extraordinary existence and the violent and tragic past she has kept secret for so long.

The Casual Vacancy by J.K. Rowling

When Barry Fairweather dies unexpectedly in his early forties, the little town of Pagford is left in shock.

Pagford is, seemingly, an English idyll, with a cobbled market square and an ancient abbey, but what lies behind the pretty façade is a town at war.

Rich at war with poor, teenagers at war with their parents, wives at war with their husbands, teachers at war with their pupils...Pagford is not what it first seems.

Loving Will Shakespeare by Carolyn Meyer

The story of the childhoods of and tumultuous romance between the boy who became the world’s most famous playwright and the spirited farmer’s daughter who became his wife.

Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess

Anthony Burgess takes us on a journey to a nightmarish future where sociopathic criminals rule the night. Brilliantly told in harsh invented slang by the novel's main character and merciless droog, fifteen-year-old Alex.

The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Terror stalks the Devonshire moors as a long-forgotten horror reawakens to haunt the last remaining heir of Baskerville Manor. *The Hound of the Baskervilles* features the famous detective Sherlock Holmes and his faithful colleague Dr. Watson as they grapple with a mysterious power from the unseen world.

A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens

Set before and during the French Revolution in the cities of Paris and London, *A Tale of Two Cities* tells the story of Dr Manette's release from imprisonment in the Bastille and his reunion with daughter, Lucie. A French aristocrat Darnay and English lawyer Carton compete in their love for Lucie and the ensuing tale plays out against the menacing backdrop of the French Revolution and the shadow of the guillotine.

Lord of the Flies by William Golding

English schoolboys marooned on an uninhabited island test the values of a civilization when they attempt to set up a society of their own.

The War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells

This is the granddaddy of all alien invasion stories, first published by H.G. Wells in 1898. The novel begins ominously, as the lone voice of a narrator tells readers that "No one would have believed in the last years of the nineteenth century that this world was being watched keenly and closely by intelligences greater than man's..."

Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie

Just after midnight, the famous Orient Express is stopped in its tracks by a snowdrift. By morning, the millionaire Samuel Edward Ratchett lies dead in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside. One of his fellow passengers must be the murderer. Isolated by the storm, detective Hercule Poirot must find the killer among a dozen of the dead man's enemies, before the murderer decides to strike again.

Emma by Jane Austen

Beautiful, clever, rich - and single - Emma Woodhouse is perfectly content with her life and sees no need for either love or marriage. Nothing, however, delights her more than interfering in the romantic lives of others. But when she ignores the warnings of her good friend Mr Knightley and attempts to arrange a suitable match for her protegee Harriet Smith, her carefully laid plans soon unravel and have consequences that she never expected. With its imperfect but charming heroine and its witty and subtle exploration of relationships, *Emma* is often seen as Jane Austen's most flawless work.

In addition to reading the book, you will complete the following three steps for EACH BOOK:

1. Write out the introductory information as shown below (record the information in order)

- Title of work and author
- Genre (play, novel, epic poem, nonfiction text); sub-genre, if applicable
(example, not just novel for *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, but satirical comedy novel).
- Historical context, such as the year published, the literary period, or any historical or literary connections worth noting
- Protagonist(s) and description
- Antagonist(s) and description
- Key themes: the main two or three

2. Personal reflection: why you liked this book and are glad you read it OR why you didn't like it and why it should be stricken from the suggested reading list in future years. Use specifics from the text to backup your response. Don't just say: "it was really good" or "it was really boring." Explain specifically why.

(approx. 200 words).

3. Choose one of the following projects to complete and present in class (do this for only ONE BOOK):

- **Create a Film Poster for Your Book:** Imagine that your book has been made into a movie. How would you create a poster that shows something significant about the plot, tone, and/or theme of the story while simultaneously attracting a big audience? What famous actors would best play the rolls? Who would direct it? On the back of your poster, you will include a fictional review from someone like Roger Ebert. Pick this project if you think of yourself as a film buff or pop culture know-it-all.
- **Design a CD Cover and Burn a Playlist for Your Book:** If your book's characters and themes remind you of songs you love, go ahead and use that inspiration for your project. Design a cool looking CD cover that relates to your book, and in the CD booklet, include the reasons you chose each song (i.e. how they related to the story's characters, plot points, theme, or tone). This project works especially well for books about road trips, but can certainly be used for any kind of story. Choose this project if music is your life.
- **Get Crafty With Cartography (That's Mapmaking, FYI):** Look back closely at the places that were important in your book, and illustrate a map that shows where they all are in relation to one another. Then create a key in which you explain why each place is so important to the story. This works well with books in which the location is really important, like Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, but can be adapted to all sorts of stories. Select this project if you're known for your close attention to detail.
- **Build a Facebook Page or Twitter Account for a Character:** It's easy to set up a fictional Facebook or Twitter account for a character from your book. Fill up your profile with the kinds of things that your chosen character would be into. If you've got a friend who read the same summer reading book, you could really wow your teacher and each set up an account for a different character. If you read one of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes books, one of you could be Sherlock Holmes and the other Watson. That way you could comment back and forth on each other's pages. Pick this project if you're into social media sites.

- **Make a Mini-Movie About Your Book:** If you're lucky enough to have advanced movie making software (like iMovie, for instance) on your computer, go make your masterpiece. If not, don't worry. If you have Windows, chances are you have Movie Maker without even knowing about it. Choose this project if you dream about being the next Steven Spielberg or M. Night Shyamalan.