

Past the Pages: 2019 5th-7th Logic School Summer Reading Opportunity

I declare that after all there is no enjoyment like reading! How much sooner one tires of anything other than a book.
Jane Austen

All I have learned I learned from books. Abraham Lincoln

The reading of all good books is like conversation with the finest men of the past centuries. Rene Descartes

In the case of good books, the point is not how many you can get through, but rather how many can get through to you. Mortimer Adler

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Summer break is certainly the time for relaxation and enjoying different kinds of opportunities other than school. Hopefully reading is on your list of leisure activities! What better time to pick up a book that isn't required for class but is interesting and potentially transformative?

At Sterling, our desire for student readers is to move from reading as mere requirement to one of *joy*. Taking pleasure in getting deep into a story or learning more deeply about history or creation are key foundations to life-long learning. Gateways to inspiration, creativity, and exploration, books allow us to engage with important people—many of whom are dead or live far away—and their ideas and perspectives. This is critical to the process of becoming wiser and more virtuous, the essence of academic discipleship. As Christians have historically been a *reading* people, reading is a privilege and opportunity to develop that skill and love through books that we *have* to as well as *get* to read. And summer is an excellent time to regain that vision and skill.

The Opportunity: Student, **select a book that engages your heart, mind, and body.** It could be a story about an imaginative world about which you've heard rave reviews, a text on a favorite part of creation, a tale from an interesting historical period, or many other exciting options. Did you come across a book earlier in the year but didn't have time to read it? Maybe you came across a book in the library or someone recommended a favorite to Has someone recommended a favorite book of theirs? Perhaps you were inspired in one of your classes to learn more about an organism, country, or author? Those are all great places to start. You can also get ideas from your community library.

The Response: As you read, take note of your responses. How is your heart, mind, and body (or even all three) changed as a result of your reading? Such a transformation could result in a new hobby or interest, a way to serve people, a perspective, or even a place that you want to go to or study in much greater detail in the future.

Before you return to Sterling in August, summarize those changes in **a reflection paper** along with a visual aide of some kind to represent your interpretation of the book or what stood out to you that changed your thoughts about the book, yourself or your perception of things in the world. Your paper and visual aid should demonstrate your thoughts, feelings, and actions during

and after your reading. This is **not** a book report or research paper. Each reflection paper—a minimum of one page—needs to include the following parts:

- Introduces your book's title and author's name
- Describes how the book stirred your imagination, heart, mind, etc.
- Portrays what changed about you
- Notes some thoughts on how you want to continue pursuing that change
- Demonstrates one or more of those changes through visual aid(s) (poster, artifacts, etc.)

Bring your reflection paper and visual aid with you on the first day of school.

Parents, summer reading is also a great opportunity for you to learn and do something along with your child. Besides helping him choose a book and assisting with accountability in keeping up with its reading, reading along with your child is a potentially-transformative event for learning and your relationship. Even if you don't read the entire book, find opportunities to dialogue how your child is engaging with the book, particularly in any applications to his or her life.