

Summer Reading Guide

*Choose **ONE** book to read over the summer from the following list and answer the questions
(due on 1st full day of class)*

Gulliver's Travels

by Jonathan Swift

Little Women or Little Men

by Louisa May Alcott

Journey to the Center of the Earth

by Jules Verne

The Time Machine

by H.G. Wells

The Little White Horse

by Elizabeth Goudge

The Hobbit

J.R.R Tolkien

Pride and Prejudice

Jane Austen

A Separate Peace

John Knowles

The Story of King Arthur and His Knights

Howard Pyle

Robinson Crusoe

Daniel Defoe

The Last of the Mohicans

James Fenimore Cooper

David Copperfield

Charles Dickens

The Tempest

William Shakespeare

The Wizard of Oz

Frank L. Baum

Summer Reading Guide:

1. How did you experience the book? Were you engaged immediately, or did it take you a while to “get into it”? How did you feel reading it - amused, sad, confused, bored...?
2. Describe the main characters - personality traits, motivations, inner qualities.
 - Why do characters do what they do?
 - Are their actions justified?
 - Describe the dynamics between characters (in a marriage, family or friendship?)
 - How has the past shaped their lives?
 - Do you admire or disapprove of them?
 - Do they remind you of people you know?
3. Do the main characters change by the end of the book? Do they grow or mature? Do they learn something about themselves and the way the world works?
4. Is the plot engaging - Does the story interest you? Is this a plot driven book: a fast paced page turner? Or does the story unfold slowly with a focus on character development?
5. Talk about the book’s structure. Is it a continuous story or interlocking short stories? Does the time-line move forward chronologically or back and forth between past and present? Does the author use a single viewpoint or shifting viewpoints? Why might the author have chosen to tell the story the way he or she did - and what difference does it make in the way you read or understand it?
6. What main ideas - themes - does the author explore? (Consider the title, often a clue to a theme) Does the author use symbols to reinforce the main ideas?
7. What passages strike you as insightful, even profound? Perhaps a bit of dialogue that’s funny or poignant or that encapsulates a character? Maybe there’s a particular comment that states the book’s theme?
8. Is the ending satisfying? If so, why? If not, why not...and how would you change it?
9. If you could ask the author a question, what would you ask? Have you read other books by the same author? If so, how does this book compare? If not, does this book inspire you to read others?
10. Has this novel changed you - broadened your perspective? Have you learned something new or been exposed to different ideas about people or a certain part of the world?