

## Rising 7<sup>th</sup> Graders Summer Reading

Students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2022 should read the following books over the summer:

*The Magician's Nephew* – C.S. Lewis, part of the *Chronicles of Narnia* series

*The Princess and the Goblin* – George MacDonald

**AUGUST 26<sup>th</sup>:** There will be a quiz on the plot of *The Magician's Nephew*.

**DUE AUGUST 31<sup>st</sup>:** Identify **a single theme** in *The Princess and the Goblin* and write an essay on how this theme appears throughout the book. Detail the different places where the theme is displayed by different characters. Examples of themes you might find would be the relationship between man and God, darkness versus light, desire to escape, etc. Your essay must be between 500 and 750 words.

## Rising 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading

Students entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2022 should read the following books over the summer:

*The Importance of Being Earnest* – Oscar Wilde

*The Scarlet Pimpernel* – Baroness Orczy

**AUGUST 26<sup>th</sup>:** There will be a quiz on the plot of *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

**DUE AUGUST 31<sup>st</sup>:** Identify **one single theme** in *The Scarlet Pimpernel* and write an essay on how this theme appears throughout the book. Detail the different places where the theme is displayed by different characters. Examples of themes you might find would be the relationship between man and God, darkness versus light, desire to escape, etc. Your essay must be between 500 and 750 words.

## Rising 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading

Students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2022 should read the following books over the summer:

Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, Esther, Job, Luke, Acts – *please use a translation of your choice (ESV, NIV, NKJV, etc.) and not a paraphrase (Message, etc.)*

*Little Women* – Luisa May Alcott

*[Current OA students need only read Part II, having already read Part I]*

**AUGUST 26<sup>th</sup>:** There will be a quiz the books of Scripture.

**DUE SEPTEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>:** Choose one major character from *Little Women* and use textual evidence to illustrate how the character changes over the course of the novel. Compose a thesis about your character's development, arguing at least one type of change you see in them, and support your thesis with 4 to 6 quotes from the book. Your essay must be between 750 and 1000 words.

## Rising 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading

Students entering 10<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2022 should read the following books over the summer:

*The Aeneid* – Virgil, preferably Robert Fagles translation, Penguin Classics

*Oedipus Colonus* – Sophocles

**AUGUST 26<sup>th</sup>:** There will be a quiz on the plot of *Oedipus Colonus*.

**DUE SEPTEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>:** Identify one single theme in *The Aeneid* and write an essay on how this theme appears throughout the book. Detail the different places where the theme is displayed by different characters. Examples of themes you might find would be the relationship between man and God, darkness versus light, desire to escape, etc. Your essay must be between 1000 and 1250 words.

## Rising 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading

Students entering 11<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2022 should read the following books over the summer:

*A Tale of Two Cities* – Charles Dickens

*The Count of Monte Cristo* – Alexandre Dumas (Unabridged!)

**AUGUST 26<sup>th</sup>:** There will be a quiz on the plot of *A Tale of Two Cities*.

**DUE SEPTEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>:** In an essay of 1000 to 1250 words, craft a thesis (Remember: be a lawyer defending an argument!) concerning one of the topics below. If you believe you can craft an arguable thesis on a different topic not listed, you are free to do so. Support your thesis with at least 3 instances of textual evidence from *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Adhere to all of the usual expectations set forth for OA literature papers (e.g. no contractions, 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> person pronouns, casual language, etc.)

Topics (choose just one):

- Education, as we firmly believe at OA, can free man to live a life of virtue in accord with his nature as an image and likeness of God. We also know, though, that some education can prime man for a life of sin, *out* of accord with God's will. Consider how education is a part of this story and craft a thesis around whether it is done well or poorly.
- In some ways this story is a romance. Consider what makes a romance plot. What type of love must/should be involved? How would you define that love? Do the romances in this story exemplify that definition of love? Craft a thesis around this idea and how romance and/or love are portrayed in the story.
- The cliché “a web of lies” comes to mind when reading this story. Consider how lies and other types of sin can create a snowball effect, piling a top one another until it is difficult to get out. Craft a thesis concerning a character from the book and how he was impacted by a “web of lies” or a cycle of sin and what this can mean for humanity and the soul.

## Rising 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading

Students entering 12<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2022 should read the following books over the summer:

*A Tale of Two Cities* – Charles Dickens

*The Count of Monte Cristo* – Alexandre Dumas (Unabridged!)

**AUGUST 26<sup>th</sup>:** There will be a quiz on the plot of *A Tale of Two Cities*.

**DUE SEPTEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>:** In an essay of 1000 to 1250 words, craft a thesis (Remember: be a lawyer defending an argument!) concerning one of the topics below. If you believe you can craft an arguable thesis on a different topic not listed, you are free to do so. Support your thesis with at least 3 instances of textual evidence from *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Adhere to all of the usual expectations set forth for OA literature papers (e.g. no contractions, 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> person pronouns, casual language, etc.)

Topics (choose just one):

- Education, as we firmly believe at OA, can free man to live a life of virtue in accord with his nature as an image and likeness of God. We also know, though, that some education can prime man for a life of sin, *out* of accord with God's will. Consider how education is a part of this story and craft a thesis around whether it is done well or poorly.
- In some ways this story is a romance. Consider what makes a romance plot. What type of love must/should be involved? How would you define that love? Do the romances in this story exemplify that definition of love? Craft a thesis around this idea and how romance and/or love are portrayed in the story.
- The cliché “a web of lies” comes to mind when reading this story. Consider how lies and other types of sin can create a snowball effect, piling a top one another until it is difficult to get out. Craft a thesis concerning a character from the book and how he was impacted by a “web of lies” or a cycle of sin and what this can mean for humanity and the soul.