



Rhetoric School Summer Reading 2026

“... all things read or written are useless except so far as they have a good influence on one’s manner of life.”
-- John of Salisbury, *Metalogicon*

Though the school year has officially come to a close, the development of the mind and the soul is never finished! Oakdale Rhetoric School students will continue that development of soul throughout the summer, reading a work specially chosen for their grade to continue themes read this past year and prepare for new works to be considered next fall.

This year, Rhetoric School students are assigned one book to read over the summer:

Rising 9th Grade: *Hittite Warrior* — Joanne Williamson

Rising 10th Grade: *Julius Caesar* — William Shakespeare

Rising 11th Grade: *A Canticle for Liebowitz* — Walter M. Miller

Rising 12th Grade: *The Power and the Glory* — Graham Greene

Each summer reading book will be discussed in class throughout the first few weeks of school in the fall. During those weeks, students will be given a reflective prompt for an **in-class essay**. That essay will be completed shortly upon the commencement of the new school year for all grades.

While only one book is assigned, there are of course many other rich texts that would be of benefit to all of our minds and souls. As such, included here is a list of recommended books for high school students, should they desire to read beyond the one assigned. The Rhetoric School staff looks forward to hearing about all the books our students read this summer and the joy and lessons they will find!

Suggested Books	
Book	Author
<i>A Tale of Two Cities</i>	Dickens
<i>All Things Bright and Beautiful</i>	James Herriot
<i>All Things Great and Small</i>	James Herriot
<i>All Things Wise and Wonderful</i>	James Herriot
<i>Carry On, Jeeves</i>	P. G. Wodehouse
<i>David Copperfield</i>	Dickens
<i>Death Comes for the Archbishop</i>	Willa Cather
<i>Don Quixote</i>	Cervantes
<i>Emma, Sense & Sensibility, Persuasion</i>	Jane Austen
<i>Father Brown series</i>	G. K. Chesterton
<i>Gone with the Wind</i>	Margaret Mitchell
<i>Jane Eyre</i>	Charlotte Bronte
<i>Les Miserables</i>	Victor Hugo
<i>Little Women and sequels</i>	Louisa May Alcott
<i>Mill on the Floss</i>	George Eliot
<i>My Antonia</i>	Willa Cather
<i>Nicholas and Alexandra</i>	Robert K. Massie
<i>Oliver Twist</i>	Dickens
<i>Sherlock Holmes series</i>	Arthur Conan Doyle
<i>Testament of Youth</i>	Vera Brittain
<i>The Hunchback of Notre Dame</i>	Victor Hugo
<i>The Last of the Mohicans</i>	James Fenimore Cooper
<i>The Life of Thomas More</i>	Peter Ackroyd
<i>The Lord of the Rings Trilogy</i>	J.R.R. Tolkien
<i>The Princess & the Goblin and sequels</i>	George MacDonald
<i>The Scarlet Pimpernel</i>	Baroness Orczy
<i>The Scottish Chiefs</i>	Jane Porter
<i>The Spirit of St. Louis</i>	Charles Lindbergh
<i>The Tempest, Winter's Tale, King Lear, Macbeth</i>	William Shakespeare
<i>The Three Musketeers</i>	Alexandre Dumas
<i>The Wind in the Willows</i>	Kenneth Graham
<i>Till We Have Faces</i>	C. S. Lewis
<i>Winnie the Pooh</i>	A.A. Milne
<i>Wuthering Heights</i>	Emily Bronte