

Students who read frequently tend to write better, spell more naturally, and improve their reading comprehension skills. While audiobooks can be helpful resources, students must READ for themselves to reap these benefits. This summer, GCS students will read at least four books (from page one) and write a single paragraph (typed and printed) for each book, summarizing the main idea (or plot), the primary character(s), and any moral or lesson within the story. (Also, tell me what you liked or did not like.) The following list has suggested titles from classical literature or award-winning books. This list is designed more as “fun” reading since it is summer vacation. Please read books which are new to you for this assignment. If a student would like to substitute another title, please clear it with Mrs. Harrison via email first. No book below the grade level of this list will be approved, as these titles are already easy-reads for secondary students. This will be graded for completion with extra credit for up to two more books.

*Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* (by Lewis Carroll)  
*Through the Looking Glass*

*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (by C.S. Lewis) ALSO: *Prince Caspian, Voyage of the Dawn Treader, Silver Chair, Horse and His Boy, Magician’s Nephew, Last Battle*

*The Door in the Wall* (by Marguerite de Angeli)

*The Golden Goblet* (by Eloise Jarvis McGraw)

*Anne of Green Gables* (by L. M. Montgomery)

*Across Five Aprils* (by Irene Hunt)

*Sarah, Plain and Tall; Skylark; Caleb’s Story* (three separate books—by Patricia MacLachlan)

*Little House in the Big Woods* (by Laura Ingalls Wilder)  
(Seven more titles follow this book in the same series.)

*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (by Roald Dahl)

*The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* (by L. Frank Baum)

*Brightly of the Grand Canyon* (by Marguerite Henry) OR other books by this author

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (by Mark Twain)

*Little Lord Fauntleroy* (by Francis Hodgson Burnett) ALSO: *The Secret Garden*

*Treasure Island* (by Robert Louis Stevenson)

The following books are either longer or at a higher reading level, so students using this list will only have to read three of the following books and write paragraph-summaries. These selections must be the original, **unabridged** versions. Please do not substitute audiobooks alone or movies.

*Little Women* (by Louisa May Alcott)

*Pride and Prejudice* (Jane Austen) OR: *Emma*; *Mansfield Park*; *Sense and Sensibility*

*Jane Eyre* (by Charlotte Bronte)

*Wuthering Heights* (by Emily Bronte)

*Moby Dick* (by Herman Melville)

*Great Expectations* (by Charles Dickens)

*The Hound of the Baskervilles* (by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle)

*Lord of the Rings* (Trilogy) (by J.R.R. Tolkien \*\*Parents: Do not count these if your student has already read them. Watching the movie does not count for reading!

*Silas Marner* (by George Eliot)

*Tales from Shakespeare* (by Charles and Mary Lamb) NOTE: For the writing portion, write a single-sentence summary for each tale.

Please verify with Mrs. Harrison before substituting other books of the same reading level. While there are many other examples of classic literature, some are already part of the school curriculum; therefore, those titles have not been included here. Books we will be reading as part of the upcoming school year(s) will not substitute for summer reading.

Be sure to sign up at your local libraries for their summer reading program, so that you can be eligible for their rewards system—other than the reward of exercising your brain through literature! Have a great summer!