



2025-2026 Summer Reading Program (Grades K-1)

Purpose

The purpose of Hillsdale Academy's summer reading program is to cultivate a love of reading, encourage independent reading outside of school, expose students to rich language and timeless literature, and provide students with a shared experience that can serve as a reference point for discussions in the coming school year.

Reading Materials

Parents of incoming kindergarten and first grade students should read aloud to their child at least two books from the list below.

Assessment/Grading

On the first day of school parents will be sent a summer reading review sheet that should be completed and returned to the teacher and will count for a completion grade. This sheet should include the titles and authors of the two books that were read to the student as well as a signed affirmation that, "I have read these books to my child in their entirety during the course of this past summer." While material from the books may be woven into class discussions, no additional graded assignments will be given over the summer reading.

Book List

Margery Williams, *The Velveteen Rabbit*

Michael Bond, *A Bear Called Paddington*

Robert McCloskey, *Blueberries for Sal*

William Steig, (any book by this author; i.e., *Brave Irene*, *Doctor DeSoto*)

Harriet Ziefert, *A New Coat for Anna*

Don Freeman, *Dandelion*

Hildegard H. Swift and Lynd Ward, *The Little Red Lighthouse and the Great Gray Bridge*

Thornton Burgess, *Big Book of Animal Stories* (or others of his animal story compilations)

Betty MacDonald, *Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle*

Jean de Brunhoff, *Babar* (any book in the series)

John Peterson, *The Littles* (any book in the series)

Jerry Pinkney, *Aesop's Fables*



Summer Reading Program Affirmation Sheet

Student name (print): _____

Grade level: _____

List the titles and authors of the books that you read this summer for the summer reading program and then sign the affirmation below.

I affirm that I have read these books to my child in their entirety during the course of the summer of 2025.

Signature: _____



2025-2026 Summer Reading Program (Grades 2-6)

Purpose

The purpose of Hillsdale Academy's summer reading program is to cultivate a love of reading, encourage independent reading outside of school, expose students to rich language and timeless literature, and provide students with a shared experience that can serve as a reference point for discussions in the coming school year.

Reading Materials

We encourage students to read multiple books each summer, but in second through sixth grade, one book is required. The required book for each grade has been selected by the faculty because of the way it augments the curriculum for that grade. A selection of suggested literature is also provided for each grade. A book may be selected by individual students from the list of suggested books for their grade level. In the case of specified required and suggested books, students must read full versions of the text (i.e., not abridged, edited, or graphic versions).

Assessment/Grading

On the first day of school students are expected to submit the attached summer reading review sheet to their literature teacher that will count for a completion grade. Students will list the books read and sign an affirmation that these books were read, in their entirety, during the past summer. While material from a specifically required book may be woven into class discussions, no additional graded assignments will be given over the summer reading.

Incoming 2nd Grade

Required: Peter and Connie Roop, *Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie*

Other Suggested Quality Literature:

Alice Dalgliesh, *The Bears on Hemlock Mountain*

Beatrix Potter, *Tales from Beatrix Potter*

Marjorie Weinman Sharmat, *Nate the Great*

Gertrude Chandler Warner, *The Boxcar Children* (any book in the series)

Eleanor Estes, *The Hundred Dresses*

Incoming 3rd Grade

Required: Students new to Hillsdale Academy should read: *My Father's Dragon* by Ruth Stiles Gannett. Returning students may either read *My Father's Dragon* by Ruth Stiles Gannett independently, or choose one of the following:

Suggested Quality Literature:

Ruth Stiles Gannett, *Elmer and the Dragon*

Ruth Stiles Gannett, *Dragons of Blueand*

Marguerite Henry, *Justin Morgan Had a Horse*

Marguerite Henry, *Misty of Chincoteague*

Marguerite de Angeli, *A Door in the Wall*

Brian Jacques, *Redwall* series

Kate Seredy, *The Good Master*

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *The Little Prince*

A. A. Milne, *The House at Pooh Corner*

Clyde Robert Bulla, *A Lion to Guard Us*



William Pene Du Bois, *The Twenty-One Balloons*
E. B. White, *The Trumpet of the Swan*
George Seldon, *The Cricket in Times Square*
Robert McCloskey, *Homer Price*
Patricia MacLachlan, *Sarah, Plain and Tall*

Incoming 4th Grade

Required: C.S. Lewis, *The Horse and His Boy*

Other Suggested Quality Literature:

Lois Lenski, *Indian Captive*
Laura Ingalls Wilder, *Little House on the Prairie*
E. L. Kongisburg, *Tales from the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*
Oliver Hunkin, *Dangerous Journey*
Andrew Lang, *The Blue Fairy Book*
Jean Fritz, *The Cabin Faced West*
Daniel DeFoe, *Robinson Crusoe* (core classic version)

Incoming 5th Grade

Required: C. S. Lewis, *The Magician's Nephew*

Other Suggested Quality Literature:

Meindert DeJong, *The House of Sixty Fathers*
Jeanne Bendick, *Archimedes and the Door of Science*
Fred Gipson, *Old Yeller*
Claire Huchet Bishop, *Twenty & Ten*
George MacDonald, *At the Back of the North Wind*
Wilson Rawls, *Where the Red Fern Grows*

Incoming 6th Grade

Required: J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit*

Other Suggested Quality Literature:

Lois Lowry, *The Giver*
William H. Armstrong, *Sunder*
Elizabeth George Speare, *The Sign of the Beaver*
Elizabeth George Speare, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*
Avi, *True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*
Hugh Lofting, *The Voyages of Doctor Dolittle*
Elizabeth Yates, *Amos Fortune, Free Man*



Summer Reading Program Affirmation Sheet

Student name (print): _____

Grade level: _____

List the title(s) and author(s) of the book(s) that you read this summer for the summer reading program and then sign the affirmation below.

Required:

Suggested:

I affirm that I have read the book(s), in its entirety, during the course of the summer of 2025.*

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

*(If a required book has been read before, you are affirming here that you read it AGAIN, completely, in the summer of 2025.)



2025–2026 Summer Reading Program (Grades 7–12)

Purpose

The purpose of Hillsdale Academy's summer reading program is to cultivate a love of reading, encourage independent reading outside of school, expose students to rich language and timeless literature, and provide students with a shared experience that can serve as a reference point for discussions in the coming school year.

Reading Materials

Students are expected to read one to two books (depending on the grade level) each summer for the summer-reading program. The required book for each grade has been selected by the faculty because of the way it augments the curriculum for that grade. A selection of suggested literature is also provided for each grade. A book may be selected by individual students from the list of suggested books for their grade level. In the case of specified required and suggested books, students must read full versions of the text (i.e., not abridged, edited, or graphic versions).

Book Availability

Literature books for the school year are purchased by families for their students. Because some of the required summer reading books are expensive texts, some hard-to-find, and some specific translations/editions, the required reading for grades 7–11 (not for grade 12) is available for students to check-out from our library. Optional texts are available on a first-come basis. These books must be returned to the Academy library when school resumes in the fall.

Assessment/Grading

On the first day of school, students are expected to submit the attached summer reading review sheet to their literature teacher for a completion grade. Students will list the books read and sign an affirmation that these books were read in their entirety, during the past summer. Teachers may also give another assignment or essay related to the required book as it is integrated into coursework during the school year.

INCOMING 7TH GRADE

Required: Baroness Orczy, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*

Other Suggested Quality Literature:

Rudyard Kipling, *The Jungle Book*
Eloise Jarvis McGraw, *The Golden Goblet*
Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women*
Jules Verne, *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*
G. A. Henty, *The Dragon and the Raven*
G. A. Henty, *The Young Carthaginian*
Jean Lee Latham, *Carry On, Mr. Bowditch*



INCOMING 8TH GRADE

Required: Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

Other Suggested Quality Literature:

Madeleine L'Engle, *A Wrinkle in Time*
Richard Adams, *Watership Down*
Jules Verne, *Around the World in Eighty Days* (original and unabridged)
Marjorie Rawlings, *The Yearling*
Mark Twain, *The Prince and the Pauper*
Lois Lowry, *Number the Stars*

INCOMING 9TH GRADE

Required: Plutarch, *Makers of Rome* (Cato the Elder, Tiberius Gracchus, Gaius Gracchus, and Mark Antony, pages 119-193 & 271-349)

Select one of these additional required books.

Lloyd Douglas, *The Robe*
George Bernard Shaw, *Pygmalion*
Henryk Sienkiewicz, *Quo Vadis*
Lew Wallace, *Ben Hur*
Louis de Wohl, *Citadel of God: A Novel about Saint Benedict*
Louis de Wohl, *The Restless Flame: A Novel about Saint Augustine*
Aeschylus, *The Persians* and *Seven Against Thebes* (pages 88-152)
T. H. White, *Once and Future King*

INCOMING 10TH GRADE

Required: Robert Bolt, *A Man for All Seasons*

Select one of these additional required books.

G. K. Chesterton, *Saint Thomas Aquinas: The Dumb Ox*
G. K. Chesterton, *Saint Francis of Assisi*
Alfred, Lord Tennyson, *Idylls of the King*
T. H. White, *Once and Future King*
Sigrid Undset, *Catherine of Siena*
Augustine, *On Christian Doctrine (De Doctrina Christiana)*
Sir Thomas More, *Utopia*
Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*
William Shakespeare, *Macbeth*
Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*
John Milton, *Paradise Lost*



INCOMING 11TH GRADE

Required: Carrie Young, *Nothing to Do but Stay*
Mark Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

Other Suggested Quality Literature:

Wendell Berry, *Jayber Crow*
Willa Cather, *Death Comes for the Archbishop*
Ernest Hemingway, *A Farewell to Arms*
John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*
Owen Wister, *The Virginian*
Marilynne Robinson, *Gilead: A Novel*
Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*

INCOMING 12TH GRADE:

Required: Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment***
C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, included in *The C. S. Lewis Signature Classics: An Anthology***

**These books are part of the Senior literature book package that will be charged to your Gradelink ledger in July. These books will be used during the school year.

Other Suggested Quality Literature:

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*
John Milton, *Paradise Lost*
Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*
Jane Austen, *Sense and Sensibility*
Jane Austen, *Emma*
Anthony Doerr, *All the Light We Cannot See*
George Eliot, *Middlemarch*
William Makepeace Thackeray, *Vanity Fair*
Victor Hugo, *Les Miserables*
Alexander Solzhenitsyn, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*
Franz Kafka, *The Metamorphosis*



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