

Brookewood School  
Summer Listening, Reading, and Poetry List 2021

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**Summer Listening**

Lower School:

Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*

Middle School:

Beethoven Symphony No. 9 in D minor Opus 125, 4th movement

Upper School:

Mozart's Piano Concerto in D Minor, No. 21, K. 466

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**Summer Reading and Poems for Recitation**

Grade 1

Reading:

*The Duchess Bakes a Cake* by Virginia Kahl

*Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Clooney

*Frog and Toad Are Friends* by Arnold Lobel

Poem to memorize:

"Clouds" by Christina Rossetti

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Grade 2

Reading:

*Amelia Bedelia* by Peggy Parish

*Nate the Great* by Majorie Weinman Sharmat

*The Mouse and the Motorcycle* by Beverly Cleary

Poem to memorize:

"Trees" by Joyce Kilmer

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Grade 3

Reading:

*Little House in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder

*The Good Master* by Kate Seredy

*Babe, The Gallant Pig* by Dick King-Smith

Poem to memorize:

"Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" by Robert Frost

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Grade 4

Reading:

*The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis

*Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell

Poem to memorize:

"My Shadow" by Robert Louis Stevenson

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Grade 5

Reading:

*The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett

*Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes

Poem to memorize:

"Silver" by Walter de la Mare

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Grade 6

Reading:

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

*Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Patterson

Poem to memorize:

"There is no Frigate like a Book" by Emily Dickinson

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## Grade 7

### Reading:

*The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* by Jacqueline Kelly  
*Bloomability* by Sharon Creech

### Poem to memorize:

“The Jabberwocky” by Lewis Carroll

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## Grade 8

### Reading:

*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott  
*Hattie Big Sky* by Kirby Larson

### Poem to memorize:

“The Gift Outright” by Robert Frost

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## Grade 9

Reading: Upper School Summer Reading Groups, as assigned (see below)

### Poem to memorize:

“On First Looking Into Chapman’s Homer” by John Keats

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## Grade 10

Reading: Upper School Summer Reading Groups, as assigned (see below)

Piece to memorize: excerpt from *Henry V* by William Shakespeare:

This day is called the feast of Crispian:

He that outlives this day, and comes safe home, Will stand a tip-toe when the day is named,  
And rouse him at the name of Crispian.

He that shall live this day, and see old age,  
Will yearly on the vigil feast his neighbours,

And say 'To-morrow is Saint Crispian:'

Then will he strip his sleeve and show his scars. And say 'These wounds I had on Crispian's day.'

Old men forget: yet all shall be forgot,

But he'll remember with advantages

What feats he did that day: then shall our names. Familiar in his mouth as household words

Harry the king, Bedford and Exeter,

Warwick and Talbot, Salisbury and Gloucester,

Be in their flowing cups freshly remember'd.

This story shall the good man teach his son;  
And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by,  
From this day to the ending of the world,  
But we in it shall be remember'd;  
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;  
For he to-day that sheds his blood with me  
Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile,  
This day shall gentle his condition:  
And gentlemen in England now a-bed  
Shall think themselves accursed they were not here, And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any  
speaks That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day.

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Grades 11 and 12  
AP English Language

1. Reading: Upper School Reading Groups, as assigned (see below)
2. *Flannery O'Connor: Spiritual Writings*, edited by Robert Ellsberg (book available from Mrs. Walsh)
3. 12th grade only: Draft of Common App. essay (see below)
4. Poem to memorize: "One Art" by Elizabeth Bishop

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Grades 11 and 12  
English III and IV

1. Reading: Upper School Reading Groups, as assigned (see below)
2. 12th grade only: Draft of Common App. essay (see below)
3. Poem to memorize: "O Me! O Life!" by Walt Whitman

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The 2021-2022 Common Application Essay Prompts are as follows:

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?

4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

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Upper School Summer Reading Group Selections (Students have selected their groups through Mrs. Walsh; please contact her if you don't have a group or have questions: [cwalsh@brookewood.org](mailto:cwalsh@brookewood.org)). These groups change each year, and a student may choose which group she wishes to join. The groups meet in September; an assessment at the first meeting is an English grade in the first quarter.

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### **Group 1**

*Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens

Have a Dickens of a summer! *Great Expectations*, published in 1861 to general acclaim and today still considered one of the best and most loved novels in English, is the coming-of-age story of the orphan Philip "Pip" Pirrip. The novel contains elements of the Gothic novel and of the mystery, and its twists and turns keep the reader guessing even as the warm, rich characterization adds humor and heart to the reading experience.

### **Group 2**

*The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde

*Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka

What would you do if you could remain beautiful forever? Weaving influences of Faust with Victorian aesthetics, Oscar Wilde's novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* challenges the reader to contemplate the relationship between beauty and morality.

Franz Kafka's *Metamorphosis* takes the reader on a surreal journey through the most pressing challenges we face via Gregor Samsa, who awakens to find himself transformed into a giant cockroach. How will other react to this shocking turn of events? What do we learn from circumstances beyond our control? Can we love what seems unlovable?

Please note: students need an edition that follows the 1891 edition in 20 chapters of *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

### **Group 3**

*Middlemarch* by George Eliot

A sweeping novel about a quiet provincial English town, Middlemarch is home to the great and the petty, the ambitious and the complaisant, the sensible and the frivolous. Wealthy young Dorothea Brooke longs for an extraordinary life of intellectual and moral vigor, but struggles to find a suitable refuge for her insatiable spirit. The story follows the life of Dorothea and other members of the Middlemarch community, as they work to reconcile their longing for happiness and greatness.

### **Group 4**

*The American Spirit* by David McCullough

*American History* by David Rubenstein

David McCullough, the most honored historian in the United States, compiles a selection of his speeches at famous colleges and universities, before Congress, at the White House, and at other esteemed institutions. Each talk is loaded with insight, storytelling, and wisdom about things that have made America great.

Philanthropist David Rubenstein sits down with famous biographers who wrote about more famous people. They know their subjects intimately. One author spent 20 years researching the life of President Lyndon Johnson. It is a good cross-section of US Presidents and other famous people such as Benjamin Franklin and Charles Lindbergh.

The two books together will give you a good grasp of American History in a deep and entertaining manner.

### **Group 5**

*Abuse of Language, Abuse of Power* by Josef Pieper

*1984* by George Orwell

*Abuse of Language, Abuse of Power* by Josef Pieper: Josef Pieper reflects on the use of human speech as a means of communicating truth and fostering dialogue directed toward communion, and discusses the consequences of using language for other purposes, such as flattery, propaganda, and mass-media. These other uses of speech often betray the intention to manipulate and control.

*1984* by George Orwell: War is Peace. Ignorance is Strength. Freedom is Slavery. A new world order seeks to foster unity by using language and other means to persuade citizens to think with the party. However, the reader must ask the question: what is unity?

## **Group 6**

*Shadows on the Rock* by Willa Cather

*Ida Elisabeth* by Sigrid Undset

The ordinary happenings in two young women lives in two very different historical times. Cecile Auclair in *Shadows on the Rock* is the daughter of the apothecary of Quebec City, in seventeenth century colonial Canada. The book portrays the simple life of ordinary people and shows how extraordinary virtues are born from such lives. The background is the infinite wilderness of 17<sup>th</sup> century Canada.

*Ida Elisabeth* is the story of a poor young woman in Norway in the 1920s and her journey in search of true happiness and true love. The background is the splendid wilderness of Norwegian fjords and mountains.

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