

Maranatha Christian Academy
Summer Reading 2023 (Brit Lit – entering grade 11/12)

The ability to read is a fundamental life skill. Reading can also be one of the most rewarding and pleasurable activities in which we engage. With guidance from the Learning Commons and our English/Language Arts departments, MCA has set a goal to encourage students to appreciate and enjoy quality literature and reading. As such, during the summer, students are given one book at each grade level that all are required to read and review. Please see below for your specific assignment. Happy reading!

- I. Welcome to British Literature! This class contains traces of British literature from the epic *Beowulf* to Shakespeare's classic plays to the present with a focus on how the historical events in England influenced the literature. Major British authors of poetry, short stories, essays, and novels will be read. Not only will you gain exposure to a wide variety of British authors, both male and female, but you will also practice analyzing their work through written responses and discussion. If you have questions about the class or the summer reading assignment, the best way to reach me is through email: julie.raines@mcamustangs.org.
- II. This summer you will be reading a novel of your choice. This novel must be a minimum of 250 pages but does not have to be written by a British author. Additionally, you must choose a novel that is age appropriate. For example, you cannot choose to read *The Chronicles of Narnia*, as it is an elementary school reading level. An easy place to check for reading level is [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Simply look up the novel and scroll down to *Product details*. Choosing a book that is not age appropriate or does not meet the minimum page length requirement will result in a loss of 20% of the assignment value.
- III. Either as you read or after you have read you will complete a creative, analytical, and reflective project over your summer reading book. You will present this project in the form of a website. See next page(s) for specific instructions.
- IV. This assignment will be due **at the beginning of our second Brit Lit class period**. Because we jump into class content in the first week of school, this due date prevents students' summer reading assignment from interfering with the new homework that will be given at the start of the school year.

If you would like to read more than your required summer reading, additional titles/reading lists are available on MCA's website.

Website Creator:

- There are several free website creators that you may choose from. “Strikingly” is fairly easy to use; other common website creators include “Weebly,” “Squarespace,” “WordPress,” etc.
- After you choose the website creator, you may pick from any template of your choosing, as long as you include the requirements listed below.
- Make sure to **SAVE** your work along the way and **PUBLISH** when you are finished.

Content Requirements:

- **“Home” Page**— All websites have a “home” page that viewers go to when they first visit a website. Your home page should be relatively minimal but visually appealing. Include a picture of the book cover as well as the title of the book and the author’s full name. You should also include your name on the home page.
- **“Plot” Page**—Insert a new page/section of your website titled “Plot.” Then, in 7-10 sentences, explain in your own words the basic plot of your book.
- **“Changes” Page**— Insert a new page/section of your website titled “Changes.” Then, in 8-10 sentences, describe the character that changed the most from the beginning of the book to the end. Explain their change, what causes it, etc. Be sure to use examples from the book.
- **“Theme” Page**— Insert a new page/section of your website titled “Theme.” What is the theme (or overall message/ biggest takeaway) that ANY reader can take away from this book? In 6-8 sentences, describe the theme of the novel and explain how it is demonstrated. Be sure to use examples from the book.
- **“Christian Worldview” Page**—Insert a new page/section of your website titled “Christian Worldview.” In 8-10 sentences, describe how the book compares to your Christian worldview. Consider how the book would answer the following questions: Does God exist? Is there life after death? What is the purpose of life? Are human beings mainly good, mainly bad, or a mixture of both? What is happiness, and how does one find happiness? Use specific examples in the book to show how it would answer those questions and discuss how the answers are similar to or different from the answers found in the Bible.
- **“Critic” Page**—Insert a new page/section of your website titled “Critic.” Write a brief book review (at least two paragraphs, 5-6 sentences each). Please include a brief plot summary, your opinion of the book, a rating on a scale of 1-10, recommendations for who would like the book, etc.

Visual Requirements

- *In addition to* a picture of the book cover on the “Home” page, your website should include a minimum of 5 more graphics or images throughout the website.
- Make sure your website style is cohesive (consistent color scheme, page titles are similar font and size, etc.).
- Your website should be visually appealing, professional, and show that you put in obvious effort. This means it should also be free from grammar/spelling errors, etc.

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