

## Upper School Summer Reading Assignment: (Rising 9th - 11th Graders\*)

\*Applies to all Upper School English classes, including Dual Enrollment and AP Students

Reading is a learned skill. So as with any learned skill, you can improve it with practice. The more you do it, the better you'll be at it. Motivate yourself and retain what you read by reading books on subjects that already interest you. . . .

Many social psychologists have reported . . . when you learn to love reading early on, your chances of academic success skyrocket. And when you don't, just the opposite occurs. Reading books does more than provide ready access to knowledge, it also 1) exercises and stretches the mind; 2) forces the mind to discriminate (in other words, to begin to think); and 3) pushes readers to use their imaginations and encourages creativity. . . .

. . . When you read, your mind is at work on a larger scale because you are consciously, constantly laying down tracks on neurological pathways. Your mind recognizes and assembles letters, words, phrases, and sentences into meaning and converts that meaning into images that are stored away in your mind. The more often you do that, the better your imagination is nourished and stretched.

– Ben Carson, *You Have a Brain*, 2015

### Summer Reading 2025

This year's assignment is to read a book related to a specific field of study or academic discipline that interests you. The book you choose should allow you to "exercise and stretch" your mind and expand your knowledge. Carefully think about a subject or a career field that interests you and look for a book related to this area of interest.

**The next page contains detailed information about the requirements and expectations of the assignment.** If you have any questions, feel free to contact any of the Upper School English teachers:

- Jill Sleigh, [jsleigh@clarksvilleacademy.com](mailto:jsleigh@clarksvilleacademy.com)
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## Choosing a Book

The world of books offers a wide range of options. Spend time exploring the library, walking through the bookstore, or browsing online before making your selection.

- If you are interested in medicine, you might choose a book like *Stiff: The Curious Life of Human Cadavers* by Mary Roach or *Gifted Hands* by Ben Carson, M.D.
- If you are interested in science, you might select *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot or *Feed* by M.T. Anderson.
- If you are interested in history, you might choose *Band of Brothers* by Stephen Ambrose or *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston.
- If you are interested in psychology, you might choose a classic psychological thriller like *Rebecca* by Daphne DuMarier.
- If you love math, believe it or not, you can find a book about it!

## Book Requirements

1. Your book should relate to an area of interest or field of study.
2. It should be at least 250 pages in length.
3. It can be fiction or nonfiction – **NO technical manuals, reference books, graphic novels, or collections of stories.**
4. It should be grade-level appropriate. Books that you would read (or have read) in lower or middle school are unacceptable. Generally, the age level of your book should be 13 and up, and the Lexile level should be 800 or up.

## Expectations

- Make a thoughtful selection. As a part of your grade, you will be asked to explain how you found your book, how it connects to a specific area of interest, and why you chose it.
- Involve your parents. They must approve your book selection **before** you begin reading! You must be able to explain the grade level or age level of your book and how you involved your parents.
- Purchase a physical copy of the book – **No e-books or audiobooks.**
- Finish reading your book by the first day of school.
- Bring a physical copy of your book to class on the first day of school.
- Be prepared to write about your book during the first week of English class.