

August 1, 2024

Dear Parents:

The BCS English department is excited about this upcoming school year and we look forward to teaching your children! One of the great joys of being an English teacher is guiding young minds as they explore classic literature.

Why do we read literature that is not written by Christians? What are the benefits of reading classic literature?

Reading “secular” literature offers the unique opportunity for Christians to sharpen their Christian worldview, to develop empathy, to improve language skills, and to ask the “big” questions about what it means to be human. According to C.S. Lewis, literature expands our life experience! The novels selected also connect to our history classes and enhance history lessons through a narrative format.

Attached are the reading lists for grades K-12 (not necessarily listed in the order in which they will be read). You are welcome to pre-read or read these along with your child. Many of the novels should be available in audio format if you choose to offer that to your child as additional support.

If you have any questions, please contact your child’s English teacher.  
Thank you!

In His Service,  
The BCS English Department

### Kindergarten - Required Read Aloud

*Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin Jr.  
\**Johnny Appleseed* by Steven Kellog  
*Red Leaf Yellow Leaf* by Lois Ehlert  
\**Blueberries for Sal* by Robert McClausky  
*Goldilocks and the Three Bears* by Jan Brett  
*Somebody and the Three Blairs* by Marilyn Tolhurst  
*Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs: Retold* by Mo Willems  
*Squanto and the Miracle of Thanksgiving: A Harvest Story from Colonial America of How One Native American's Friendship Saved the Pilgrims* by Eric Metaxas  
*How to Catch a Turkey* by Adam Wallace and Andy Elkerton  
*Jesus Calling: The Story of Christmas* (picture book): God's Plan for the Nativity from Creation to Christ by Sarah Young  
*The Mitten* by Jan Brett  
*The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats  
*Frog and Toad* series by Arnold Lobel  
\**Peter Rabbit* (stories 1-12) by Beatrix Potter

### Kindergarten - Supplemental

*Stuart Little* by E.B. White  
*Winnie the Pooh* by A.A. Milne  
*Berenstain Bears* by Jan and Stan Berenstain

### 1st Grade - Required Read Aloud

\**Aesop's Fables*  
*You Wouldn't Want to Build a Pyramid* by Jacqueline Morley  
*You Wouldn't Want to Be Tutankhamen* by David Steward  
*You Wouldn't Want to be in Alexander the Great's Army* by Jacqueline Morley  
*Who Was Jesus* by Ellen Morgan  
*The Hat* by Jan Brett  
*The Three Little Pigs* adapted by Mara Alperin  
*The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* by Jon Scieszka

### 1st Grade - Supplemental

*The Mouse and the Motorcycle* by Beverly Cleary  
*The Trumpet of the Swan* by E.B. White

### 2nd Grade - Required Read Alouds

\**A Medieval Feast* by Alike  
\**The Gingerbread Man* by Jim Aylesworth  
*Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* by Judy Bloom  
*The Miraculous Adventures of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo  
\**Shakespeare's Tales Retold for Children*  
By Samantha Newman  
\**Robin Hood* by Annie Engle  
\**Knights of the Round Table* by Gwen Gross  
\**Why Did the Reformation Happen?* Danika Cooley

### 2nd Grade - Supplemental

\**The Knight at Dawn* by Mary Pope Osborne  
\**Stage Fright on a Summer's Night* by Mary Pope Osborne  
\**A to Z Mystery Castle Crime* by Ron Roy  
*Pulling Together* by Dawn L Watkins  
*Once in Blueberry Dell* by Dawn L. Watkins  
\**Sir Cumference and the Dragon of Pi* by Cindy Neuschwander  
\**Sir Cumference and the First Round Table* by Cindy Neuschwander  
*Diary of a Worm* by Doreen Cronin  
*Diary of a Spider* by Doreen Cronin  
*Diary of a Fly* by Doreen Cronin  
\**Make it Chocolate* by Madison Spielman  
*The Treasure of Pelican Cove* by Milly Howard

### 3rd Grade - Required

*Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White  
*Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo  
\**Little Pilgrim's Progress* (illustrated edition) from John Bunyan's Classic by Helen L Taylor  
\**Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe

### 3rd Grade - Required Read Alouds

*The Courage of Sarah Noble* by Alice Dalgliesh  
*These Are My People* by Mildred T Howard  
*Electric Ben* by Robert Ryrd  
*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain (an adaptation of)

### 3rd Grade - Supplemental

*Our Three Little Pilgrims* by Cheryl Harness  
*Sarah Plain and Tall* by Patricia MacLachlan  
*Skylark* by Patricia MacLachlan  
\**William Carrey: Obligated to Go* by Geoff and Janet Bengé  
\**Squanto, Friend of the Pilgrims* by Clyde Robert Bulla

### 4th Grade - Required

\**Heidi* by Johanna Spyri (girls)  
\**Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson (boys)  
*Medallion* by Dawn L. Watkins  
\**War Horse* by Michael Morpurgo  
\**Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth George Speare

### 4th Grade - Required Read Alouds

*The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau  
*James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl  
*Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo  
\**The Trumpet of the Swan* by E.B. White

### 4th Grade - Supplemental

*The Borrowers* by Mary Norton  
*Mr. Popper's Penguins* by Florence and Richard Atwater  
\**Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry  
\**My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George  
*Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick

*The Giver* by Lois Lowry  
*The Dinner Party* by Mona Gardner  
*The Lottery* by Shirley Jackson  
*The Gift of the Magi* by O. Henry  
*Hope* by Emily Dickinson  
*A Red, Red Rose* by Robert Burns  
*Springtime a la Carte* by O. Henry

### 5th Grade - Required

\**The Golden Goblet* by Eloise Jarvis McGraw  
\**Black Ships Before Troy* by Rosemary Sutcliff  
\**Twice Freed* by Patricia St. John  
\**The Bronze Bow* by Elizabeth George Spear

### 5th Grade - Supplemental

*Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell  
*The Incredible Journey* by Sheila Bunyard  
*The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame  
*The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling  
*Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen

### 6th Grade - Required

\**Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, verse translation by J.R.  
R. Tolkien  
*Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes  
\**The Door in the Wall* by Marguerite de Angeli

### 6th Grade - Supplemental

*A Father's Promise* by Donna L. Hess  
*The Chronicles of Narnia* series by C.S. Lewis

### 7th Grade - Required

\**The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare  
\**Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan  
*Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain

### 7th Grade - Supplemental

*Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes  
*Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe

### 8th Grade - Required

\**Call of the Wild* by Jack London  
\**A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens  
\**Across Five Aprils* by Irene Hunt

### 8th Grade - Supplemental

*Man Without a Country* by Edward Everett Hale  
*The Yearling* by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings  
*Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie

### 9th Grade - Required

\**Beowulf*  
*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee  
*The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom  
\**The Tragedy of Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare

### 9th Grade - Supplemental

*The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway

### 10th Grade - Required

*The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane  
*Night* by Elie Wiesel  
*Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare  
\**A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens

### 10th Grade - Supplemental

*Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift  
*The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle  
*Tell-Tale Heart* by Edgar Allan Poe  
*The Raven* by Edgar Allan Poe  
*The Inspiration of Mr. Budd* by Dorothy Sayers  
*The Red-Headed League* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle  
*Education, Our Own Work* by John Todd  
*The Death of a Hired Man* by Robert Frost  
*Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening* by Robert Frost

### 11th Grade - Required

\**The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne  
\**Through Gates of Splendor* by Elisabeth Elliot  
*Hamlet* by William Shakespeare  
Various American short stories  
\**Moby Dick* by Herman Melville (Honors)

### 11th Grade - Supplemental

*The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott. Fitzgerald

### 12th Grade - Required

*The Taming of the Shrew* by William Shakespeare  
*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen  
*Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton  
*Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens  
*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte (Honors)

### 12th Grade - Supplemental

*Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare

\* = Aligns with History Curriculum