

Blessed Trinity Catholic School
Entering 8th Grade (2022-2023)
Middle School Language Arts Summer Reading

Required Reading: You will read **two books** for summer reading before 8th grade. You will take an AR quiz on *The Alchemist*. If you write (by hand) one page of notes for each book, you are free to use those notes on the AR quizzes. You will write a paper for **both** books.

1. Read *The Alchemist* by **Paulo Coelho** Write an 800-1000-word paper. Evaluate the plot, the main characters, and major themes in the book. Give your opinion of the book – state this as a thesis statement at the end of your introduction. Use quotes from the text (at least five). Your paper should be written in paragraph form with an introduction, two to three body paragraphs, and conclusion. Cite page numbers with the author’s last name in parentheses for your quotes. Make sure to check your grammar, spelling, and punctuation. You need a Works Cited page as the last page of your document. An MLA heading, original title and your last name and corresponding page numbers are needed. Include a bolded word count.

2. Read a book of your choice from the below list. Evaluate the plot, the main characters, and major themes in the book. Give your opinion of the book – state this as a thesis statement at the end of your introduction. Use quotes from the text (at least five). Your paper should be written in paragraph form with an introduction, two to three body paragraphs, and conclusion. Cite page numbers with the author’s last name in parentheses for your quotes. Make sure to check your grammar, spelling, and punctuation. You need a Works Cited page as the last page of your document. An MLA heading, original title and your last name and corresponding page numbers are needed. Include a bolded word count.

Book List:

Absolutely Normal Chaos, Sharon Creech
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, Sherman Alexie
Crash, by Jerry Spinelli
Ender’s Game, Orson Scott Card
The Fault in Our Stars, John Green
The Fellowship of the Ring, J.R.R. Tolkien
For Whom the Bell Tolls, Ernest Hemingway
The Great Divorce, C.S. Lewis
Just Fly Away, Andrew McCarthy
Messenger, by Lois Lowry
The Once and Future King, T.H. White
Knots on my Yo Yo String, Jerry Spinelli
Make Lemonade, Virginia Euwer Wolff
Out of the Dust, Karen Hesse
Out of the Silent Planet, C.S. Lewis
Perelandra, C.S. Lewis
The Screwtape Letters, C.S. Lewis
The Silver Chair, C.S. Lewis
Skink, Carl Hiaasen
Death on the Nile, Agatha Christie
White Fang, Jack London