

Rising Twelfth Grade Summer 2026 Reading List

Required Reading

Students will need to purchase their own copies of the books below and are expected to read closely and annotate. Any edition of these oft-reprinted books will do and can be readily found on Amazon or in any new or used bookstore.

***Till We Have Faces: A Myth Retold* by CS Lewis.** Lewis' last novel is a recasting of the myth of Cupid and Psyche as a fascinating tale of love, loss, skepticism, and faith, a thoughtful inquiry into the human soul. Taste and see!

***Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes* by Edith Hamilton.** By way of review (or introduction), students should read at least the following:

- Part 1, sections I, II, and III (pp. 21–94)
- Part 2, sections I & II: Pyramus & Thisbe, Orpheus & Eurydice, Pygmalion & Galatea (pp. 135–142, 145–150)
- Part 5, section II: The Royal House of Thebes (pp. 372–391)

This classic collection reviews the stories, personalities, gods, and heroes of ancient Greece (and Rome) that animate not only those ancient cultures, but all of Western Civilization.

All AP and honors students must also select and read at *least* one of the following that they have not previously read:

- *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
- *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky
- *The Aeneid* trans. by Robert Fagles (If you read this in 8th grade at Geneva, you may still read it now. It can seem quite different the second time around!)
- *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville
- *The Faerie Queene*, Book I, ed. Carol V Kaske (ISBN-13: 978-0872208070. Please **buy and read this particular edition**, as the poem is often 'translated' or retold in other versions. This is the actual poem, helpfully-edited.)

There will be assignments given in the first quarter drawing on the reading of these books, so come prepared to discuss, analyze, compare, and further your insight into what you've read.

Thesis Topic Book

Students should have already selected the specific book (in conjunction with a faculty member and approved by the rhetoric class teachers) that they are reading over the summer. Students will be asked to complete a writing assignment on their chosen book at the beginning of the school year. If students have questions about their selection or want to change books during the summer, they should contact Nathan Raley.