



Summer Literature 2009

Covenant Christian School

May 1, 2009

Introduction

Covenant's summer literature program is designed to help our students continue to grow in their reading ability while introducing them to good literature. While students are required to read (or be read to or assisted in reading) the assigned literature found at the end of this document, summer is also great time for reading anything of interest: fiction, nonfiction, poetry, plays, magazines, newspapers, the Bible, etc.

It's also a great time of year to spend time at the local public library. At the library students can be introduced to the Dewey Decimal System as well as the computer catalog. While at the library visit with your student about good library etiquette including how to check out (and return!) their books.

Reading Guidelines

While there are many perspectives on how much reading a child should do during summer break, a suggested guideline is as follows (for students entering):

- Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten: parents should read to their children a minimum of 15 minutes each day
- New Readers: parents take turns reading with the student for 15 minutes each day
- Independent Early Readers—First and Second Grades: 15-30 minutes each day
- Third and Fourth Grades: 30 minutes a day
- Fifth and Sixth Grades: 1 hour per day

Of course, rainy summer days may find a good deal more reading taking place!

Tips for Parents

Here are a few tips for parents to help their students develop good reading habits and skills:

1. Model reading for your children. Go ahead and read a good book in front of your student!
2. Limit the amount of time your students watch television or play video games
3. If your child shows an interest in a particular subject, look for books that may enhance their interest
4. Build your home library with lots of good, fun books. Garage sales and used book stores are great ways to find good books without busting the budget
5. Read to or with your child before going to sleep
6. Sign up for one of the public library's summer reading programs
7. Give your children a subscription to a magazine they will find interesting. There are many good child-friendly magazines available
8. Ask librarians for help in selecting books for your student. Librarians spend a lot of time reading and learning about books and they tend to love to share their knowledge

Read-Aloud

One of the best ways to develop good reading habits and skills in your students is to read aloud to them from the time they are born. Reading aloud to your student:

- Helps them to develop a life-long love of reading. (Even though they may not be able to read a good book on their own, when you read good literature to them they in turn desire to read it themselves.)
- Expands your student's vocabulary through the use of words that reach beyond their current level
- Builds important listening skills including the ability to visualize the meaning of spoken words
- Assists in developing an "ear" for good oral reading
- Develops good oral reading skills through imitation
- Allows you to spend significant times together

Building Comprehension

Of course, it is important for children to understand what they are reading or what is being read to them. Building comprehension skills is important for developing good reading habits. These can be enhanced as follows:

- Listen as your student reads aloud to you
 - If they stumble frequently or mispronounce a number of words, the material may be too difficult for them. It may be best to switch to something easier. If they must read the material because it is an assignment, take the time to help him learn to read the words causing problems. Then they should reread the material paying attention to the content
 - If your student reads in a frantic rush, have them slow down and read at a rate more comfortable to listeners
 - If your students reads very slowly, pausing often to sound out words, they may need to read the material several times. This will allow them to become comfortable enough with the words to concentrate on comprehension.
- Students should look for meaning (and, when older, the author's worldview) in everything read because everything is written for a reason. A joke is written to make others laugh. Poetry is often written to share an emotion. Prose is written to tell a story or give information. They were all written for a reason
- If your child reads well orally but struggles to remember what was read, they should be trained to go beyond simply reading the material to understanding it as well. This may include having your student look for something specific in what was read
- Have your student try to answer the "reporter's questions" (who, what, where, when, why and how) as they read
- After reading the selection, have your student repeat to themselves what happened in the story or what new thing was learned
- After your student reads anything, even a cereal box, ask questions or talk about what he read
- Use a recipe or follow directions with your student to make or assemble things. Keep pointing out how you and your student must read to learn the necessary information
- When traveling use maps and let your student be the navigator. Have them look for signs to tell you when to turn, how far you have to go, when you have arrived, etc.
- Have your student read aloud to you periodically to make sure they are not developing bad habits
- If at all possible, let your student read about topics they like. People tend to remember what they have read when they learn about something they like

Required Literature

The following may be read aloud to the student or read independently depending on each student's particular needs. Four copies of each book will be available in the school office during the summer for check out for a two-week period. Of course, the public library will also have copies or you may purchase the book online (all books are available at www.Amazon.com) or from a local bookstore. The office will be open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am to noon during the summer.

Preschool and Kindergarten

Students entering Preschool or Kindergarten should be read to on a daily basis. There is no specific reading requirement for these students.

First Grade

Fiction

Please read to/with your student any of the Magic Tree House series or Boxcar Children series.

Biography

Any story about a president is good. One suggestion would be:

George WashingtonIngri d'Aulaire and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire

Scripture

Judges 6 and 7 (the story of Gideon)

Second Grade

Fiction

Flat StanleyJeff Brown

Biography

Laura Ingalls Wilder: Growing Up in the Little House.....Patricia Reilly Giff

Scripture

Matthew 8 and 9

Third Grade

Fiction

Henry HugginsBeverly Cleary

Biography

Corrie Ten Boom: The Watchmaker's DaughterJean Watson

Scripture

Genesis 1-3 (the creation story)

Fourth Grade

Fiction

The Cricket in Times Square.....George Selden

Biography

Who Was William Shakespeare?Celeste Mannis

Scripture

First Samuel 1-12

Fifth Grade

Fiction

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMHRobert O'Brien

Biography

William Wilberforce: The Freedom FighterDerick Bingham

Scripture

The book of Luke

Sixth Grade

Fiction

Choose one of the following:

My Side of the MountainJean Craighead George

Black Beauty Anna Sewell

Biography

Up from Slavery.....Booker T. Washington

Scripture

The book of Acts