

LONG BRANCH HIGH SCHOOL
English Department
Grade 9 Summer Reading List

All students are required to read two books during the summer. In addition to reading, students are responsible for completing a reading response journal as they read throughout the summer. These reading response journals should be written in a notebook and will be collected and graded the first week of school. In September each student will give an oral presentation based on their journal entries and the books they read.

Directions for Reading Response Journals:

You will be required to complete a reading response journal for the summer reading book(s) of your choice. Each entry should have a heading which includes the date, the title of the work under discussion, and the section/page numbers of the work. Topics for responses can center on, but are not limited to:

- What parts of the book did you find interesting or confusing in the reading?
- Explain a character's thoughts or actions at key points in the story.
- Describe any characters you can personally relate to.
- Connect themes or characters to other books or stories you have read.
- Describe any characters you can relate to a real world context.
- Write diary entries from a major character's point of view.
- Discuss any social relevance you discover in the themes or events of the play.
- Respond to key developments of the plot.
- Predict a conflict's resolution.

Your responses should begin to reflect informed opinions about the book(s) being read and should use passages from the text to support your opinions. It will be important to discuss in your responses various literary techniques and elements including, but not limited to, structure, diction, syntax, tone, figurative language, and poetic and rhetorical devices.

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams

The story of a British earthling plucked from his planet, and his subsequent adventures elsewhere in the universe.

Durango Street by Frank Bonham

When Rufus Henry gets out of work camp for stealing a car, he has only one place to go—back to Durango Street. Almost right away, he gets on the wrong side of the Gassers, has to join the rival Moors—and starts running for his life.

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie

Ten strangers are gathered together on an isolated island by a mysterious host. They share the darkest secrets of their pasts, and then, one by one, they die.

After the First Death by Robert Cormier

Events of the hijacking of a bus of children by terrorists seeking the return of their homeland are described from the perspectives of a hostage, a terrorist, an Army general involved in the rescue operation, and his son, chosen as the go-between.

Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens

Oliver Twist, whose famous characters include Fagin, the cruel burglar Bill Sikes, and the wily and impudent pickpocket, the Artful Dodger (as well as the young orphan Oliver himself), was conceived by Dickens as a criticism of the Poor Law of 1824.

Romiette and Julio by Sharon M. Draper

Romiette, an African-American girl, and Julio, a Hispanic boy, discover that they attend the same high school after falling in love on the Internet, but are harassed by a gang whose members object to their interracial dating.

By George: Autobiography of George Foreman by George Foreman, Joel Engel

The two-time world heavyweight champion's autobiography traces his rise from 60's Houston street hoodlum to world champ, family man and advertising star.

A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines

A young man who returns to 1940s Cajun country to teach visits a black youth on death row for a crime he didn't commit. Together they come to understand the heroism of resisting.

The Friends by Rosa Guy

Phyllisia eventually recognizes that her own selfish pride rather than her mother's death and her father's tyrannical behavior created the gulf between her and her best friend.

My Love, My Love: The Peasant Girl by Rosa Guy

Rosa Guy's tropical retelling of Hans Christian Anderson's fable "The Little Mermaid" is the tragic love story of Desiree, the beautiful peasant girl who devotes herself, body and soul, to a handsome urban "prince" whose life she has saved from an accident near her village.

Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix

In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that government is wrong.

The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway

It is the story of an old Cuban fisherman and his supreme ordeal: a relentless, agonizing battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream.

Eyes of the Dragon by Stephen King

A spellbinding fantasy adventure brimming with dragons, wizards, and castles.

Slam by Walter Dean Myers

Sixteen-year-old “Slam” Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently.

The Name of the Game Was Murder by Joan Lowery Nixon

Samantha’s mean-spirited great-uncle, famous novelist Augustus Trevor, has invited—or blackmailed—a group of celebrities to his island mansion to participate in a “game.” But when Augustus is found dead, Samantha must join the game.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

The Nolans live in the Williamsburg slums of Brooklyn. Their Daughter Francie and son Neely know more than their fair share of the sufferings that are the lot of the poor. As Francie grows up, the beginnings of wisdom sprout in her.

The Cay by Theodore Taylor

After a shipwreck, a young boy is stranded on an island with a very interesting companion and learns life lessons on survival, prejudice and overcoming adversity.

Fellowship of the Ring by J.R.R. Tolkien

In a sleepy village in the Shire, young Frodo Baggins finds himself faced with an immense task, as his elderly cousin Bilbo entrusts the One Ring to his care. Frodo must leave his home and make a perilous journey across Middle-earth to the Cracks of Doom, there to destroy the Ring and foil the Dark Lord in his evil purpose.

The Two Towers by J.R.R. Tolkien

In this second volume of Tolkien’s trilogy *The Lord of the Rings*, the intrepid hobbit Frodo Baggins moves toward Mordor, Sauron’s hellish stronghold, where he must attempt to destroy the dangerous ring that could destroy the world.

Return of the King by J.R.R. Tolkien

Having vanquished Sauron’s troops and killed the Lord of the Dark Riders, heroic hobbit Frodo Baggins and his band of soldiers now face another, bloodier battle outside Mordor’s Black Gate. The concluding volume of Tolkien’s masterful trilogy.

The Bridge at San Luis Rey by Thornton Wilder

This book opens in the aftermath of an inexplicable tragedy—a tiny foot-bridge in Peru breaks, and five people hurtle to their deaths. For Brother Juniper, a humble monk who witnesses the catastrophe, the question is inescapable; why those five? Suddenly, Brother Juniper is committed to discover what manner of lives they led—and whether it was divine intervention or a capricious fate that took their lives.

Breaking Through by Francisco Jimenez

A moving true story account of a 14-year-old and his family forced to leave their home in California. Responding to the struggles of poverty and prejudice with hope, the family endures and eventually perseveres