

SOUTH TEXAS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

High School Summer Reading Lists

2025

Dear Students and Parents: STCA believes that the most successful students are those who develop a love of reading and assume the responsibility to pursue reading in order to become life-long learners. Therefore, we encourage our students to read regularly. Studies show that students who read more tend to get better grades, have greater creativity, and retain information better.

Directions: *Read the required books for your grade level and complete a one-page summary of each book. Use MLA format (12 inch font, Times New Roman, Double-spaced). Be prepared to take a comprehension exam on the first week of your entrance date.*

HAPPY READING!!!!

Grade 9

Tuesdays With Morrie by Mitch Albom

The true story of sociologist Morrie Schwartz and his relationship with his students. The book chronicles the lessons about life that Mitch learns from his professor, who is dying.

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

Told from the point of view of an Alaskan sled dog, this classic adventure story traces the transformation of a civilized animal to a harsh leader of the wild.

Grade 10

Ramona by Helen Hunt Jackson

Ramona is the story of 3 cultures - Indian, Mexican, and Anglo - locked in combat. The upheaval and injustice are humanized through the romance of a beautiful half-Indian orphan who grew up as the ward of Señora Moreno in privileged surroundings, then falls in love with an Indian and joins him in a life of poverty and tragedy.

Who Moved My Cheese? By Spencer Johnson

*Most people are fearful of change, both personal and professional, because they don't have any control over how or when it happens to them. Since change happens either to the individual or by the individual, Dr. Spencer Johnson, the co-author of the multimillion best seller *The One Minute Manager*, uses a deceptively simple story to show that when it comes to living in a rapidly changing world, what matters most is your attitude.*

Grade 11

The Downstairs Girl by Stacey Lee

By day, 17-year-old Jo Kuan works as a lady's maid for the cruel daughter of one of the wealthiest men in Atlanta. But by night, Jo moonlights as the pseudonymous author of a newspaper advice column for the genteel Southern lady, "Dear Miss Sweetie". When her column becomes wildly popular, she uses the power of the pen to address some of society's ills, but she's not prepared for the backlash that follows when her column challenges fixed ideas about race and gender.

Peaks and Valleys By Spencer Johnson

Peaks and Valleys is a story of a young man who lives unhappily in a valley until he meets an old man who lives on a peak, and it changes his work and life forever.

Initially, the young man does not realize he is talking with one of the most peaceful and successful people in the world. However, through a series of conversations and experiences that occur up on peaks and down in valleys, the young man comes to make some startling discoveries.

Eventually, he comes to understand how he can use the old man's remarkable principles and practical tools in good and bad times and becomes more calm and successful himself.

Grade 12

The Stranger in the Lifeboat by Mitch Albom

What would happen if we called on God for help and God actually appeared? In Mitch Albom's profound new novel of hope and faith, a group of shipwrecked passengers pull a strange man from the sea. He claims to be "the Lord". And he says he can only save them if they all believe in him.

A Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

When Lenina and Bernard visit a savage reservation, we experience how Utopia can destroy humanity.

On the 75th anniversary of its publication, this outstanding work of literature is more crucial and relevant today than ever before. Cloning, feel-good drugs, anti-aging programs, and total social control through politics, programming, and media: has Aldous Huxley accurately predicted our future? With a storyteller's genius, he weaves these ethical controversies in a compelling narrative that dawns in the year 632 A.F. (After Ford, the deity). When Lenina and Bernard visit a savage reservation, we experience how Utopia can destroy humanity.