

## 8th-9th Grade Assigned Summer Reading

Incoming 8th and 9th Grade Students must read **TWO** books this summer and complete **ONE** short project. All students who complete both the summer readings and the project will receive a head start academically in Humanities, a Homework pass and **400 house points**.

### SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT #1:

Pick ONE of the thought-provoking Christian biographies found below. Reading one of these biographies will help students identify with the hills and valleys of other believers while helping to grow their faith.

- [God's Smuggler by Brother Andrew](#)
- [Peace Child: An Unforgettable Story of Primitive Jungle Treachery in the 20th Century by Don Richardson](#)
- [Shadow of the Almighty: The Life and Testament of Jim Elliot \(Lives of Faith\)](#)
- [A Chance to Die: Amy Carmichael](#)
- [A Passion for the Impossible- Liliat Trotter - Algeria](#)
- [I Dared to Call Him Father \(Sheikh\) -- a Muslim, Bilquis Sheikh became a Christian, South Asia, 1970s](#)
- [The Good News Must Go Out: True Stories of God at work in the Central African Republic \(Hidden Heroes\)](#)
- [Return of the White Book: True Stories of God at Work in Southeast Asia \(Hidden Heroes\)](#)
- [Bruchko: The Astonishing True Story of a 19-Year-Old American, His Capture by the Motilone Indians and His Adventures in Christianizing the Stone Age Tribe](#)
- [Mountain Rain: A New Biography of James O. Fraser \(Missionary Life Series\)](#)

### SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT #2:

Your student will select one book from the [2025 Upper School Oak Hill Book List](#). The book must be a minimum of 150 pages. Students may NOT choose any book that they have already read. Students may purchase a copy of their book or check it out from a local library.

**NOTE:** By giving students a choice, their selection is intended to promote engagement and interest.

***Please do your regular due diligence in screening books for your children.*** In older grades, a goal of classical Christian education is not to shield students from the sin in this world, but to teach them how to understand and engage the culture based on Biblical principles and a Christian worldview. Hence, these books might contain mature content in the middle/upper grades. We also understand that even in the lower grades, families often differ in what is acceptable content for their own children, so please exercise wisdom.

Our Oak Hill reading list spans a range of reading levels, which means that some books on the list could be easier or more difficult for your son/daughter. That said, you know your child, and can help them select books that are at the appropriate level for their reading development.

## **Summer Reading Project Details:**

### **STEP ONE:**

**Pick one of the above two books to create a One-Pager project (see steps and description below).**

**Read your book and annotate as you read, paying attention to important details:**

- character descriptions
- plot elements
- theme
- symbols
- mood/tone
- meaningful quotes
- Biblical values
- anything else that resonates with you

### **STEP TWO:**

After completing your summer reading assignment, create a one-pager. This is a detailed one-page artistic representation of the major themes and ideas of the reading. If you've never seen one before, feel free to Google "one-pager" and you'll see lots of examples! (See some examples below.)

Directions for creating your one-pager:

1. Start with a blank piece of paper.
2. Collect coloring supplies and/or your computer for inspiration for images. May be hand-drawn or printed pictures (cut out/glue).
3. Use the following prompt to inspire the design of your page: What is the central theme of the text, and how do the characters, plot, and setting reveal and shape this theme, and what biblical values are present and how do they relate to you personally?
4. Design a one-page collage that answers your question using the following:
  - a. A thematic statement that represents the reading
  - b. Text (quotes from the reading, individual words, etc.)
  - c. Biblical values and how they relate to you personally
  - d. Images (symbols, characters, setting elements, etc.)
  - e. Color (think about mood and tone)
  - f. Make sure the name of the book and the author are on paper

Be sure to incorporate textual evidence into your one-pager - this is a critical component! Also, remember that the design and thoughtfulness behind each of the elements you include is important.

Show the layers of understanding that you gained from reading, not just the surface-level observations that anyone could make from simply skimming.

## Oak Hill Classical School

### 8th–9th Grade Summer Reading Completion Form

Academic Year: 2025–2026

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

As part of their summer preparation for Humanities, students were assigned to:

1. **Read TWO books:**
  - One Christian biography from the approved list below
  - One book of their choice from the 2025 Oak Hill Upper School Reading List (minimum 150 pages and not previously read)
2. **Complete ONE One-Pager Project** on either of the two books, incorporating artistic design and textual evidence around the book's theme, biblical values, and literary elements.

By signing below, we confirm that the student has completed both summer reading assignments **in full** and has completed the One-Pager project as described.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Book Title – Christian Biography:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Author:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Book Title – Oak Hill Upper School List Selection:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Author:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Note to students:** Please submit this signed form **along with your One-Pager** on the first day of school.

Thank you for your thoughtful reading and preparation this summer!

## Examples of a One-Pager:

