

English 8 novels for 2021-2022

Below is the novel list for the 2021-2022 school year. The first three are the novels approved for summer reading. Students must select **ONE** of the novels from that list to read **AND** complete their summer reading assignment. The other two novels are required of all students and we will read them later in the year. Students must go ahead and purchase these two novels as they will be required to be turned in to me by August 31st. I have found that by requiring the students to have their novels at the beginning of the year, reduces the chances of them getting lost or misplaced. Please write their names, clearly, on the outside of the novels. I will have labels and markers available for them to do so in class, if needed.

Please purchase the editions listed below when possible. It is difficult for students to locate reading passages we use in class when there are so many different editions. Time spent searching for the reading passages takes up a great deal of class time. When we all have the same edition, then I can help them locate the sections we are examining more quickly in class. If you have trouble locating a specific edition, please let me know. I have searched each of these on three different online bookseller sites and have found them to be plentiful in number. The ISBN-13 number has been included for your reference.

English 8 Summer Reading Choices – Students will select ONE of the novels from this list to read AND complete the summer reading assignment.

1. *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie 978-0062073495
2. *The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmitt 978-0547237602
3. *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton 978-0142407332

School Year Novels – All students are required to purchase these books and must be turned in to the teacher by August 31st.

1. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain (*) 978-0486400778
2. *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien 978-0547928227

*Be careful purchasing this novel because there are many editions out there for *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. We use an unabridged edition. Your novel should have a Preface, 25 chapters, and a Conclusion.

English 8 Summer Reading Novel Summaries

Students will **select ONE** of the novels from this list to read AND complete the summer reading assignment.

***The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmitt**

Historical Fiction, Realistic Fiction, Humor

This story is a humorous and compelling story about a teenage boy's mishaps and misadventures over the course of the 1967–68 school year in Long Island, New York. Holling Hoodhood, a seventh-grader at Camillo Junior High, must spend Wednesday afternoons with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, while the rest of the class has religious instruction. Mrs. Baker doesn't like Holling—he's sure of it. Why else would she make him read the plays of William Shakespeare outside class?

***Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie**

Fiction, Murder Mystery, Crime Novel

In this story it is just after midnight and a snowdrift stops the Orient Express in its tracks. By the time morning arrives the train is one passenger fewer. An American tycoon lies dead in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside. The famous detective, Hercule Poirot, must work quickly to identify the murderer before he or she decides to strike again.

***The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton**

Realistic Fiction, Historical Fiction, Teen Fiction

Ponyboy Curtis is a good-natured teen who loves books and movies. He's also an orphan whose two older brothers and street-smart friends guard and protect him. This story is about two weeks in the life of a 14-year-old boy. The novel tells of his struggles with right and wrong in a society in which he believes that he is an outsider.

8th Grade English Summer Reading Assignment

****Write in blue/black ink (legibly) or type using Times New Roman 12 pt font for all assignments****

You will read the novel you select and complete the following assignments. You will complete the assignments as described below. Be prepared to discuss this novel the first day of school and expect a reading comprehension assessment over the novel in the first week.

Part I – Read with a pencil. While you read, underline sections of the texts that you do not understand. Circle words you do not know; write comments and questions in the margins. Think about the text while you are reading. This will help you as you work on the following tasks and as you participate in classroom discussion.

Part II – You have a choice of which assignment to complete. Read through the options carefully and choose the option you feel you are best suited to score well.

Option I – Folder Project. (100 pts total) Choose any folder or envelope (two pockets, manila, mailing, etc.) to represent your learning and understanding of the novel. The folder does not matter but your inside items (see below) must fit inside.

The Outside. Decorate the folder with details and themes found in the book (25 pts.). Your name and class period must show clearly on the outside.

The Inside. The inside of the folder must include the following materials pertaining to the book:

1. **Vocabulary (25 pts.)** – While you are reading, create a 10-word glossary of unfamiliar words from the book and a definition for each word. Include the page number of where the word can be found. Do not take more than two words from each chapter.
2. **Symbolism (25 pts.)** – Symbolism is a literary device that uses symbols (concrete) to represent something beyond the literal meaning (abstract). Identify two examples of symbolism in the novel. Select two objects (concrete) to represent symbolism (symbolism) from the book. In two paragraphs (one to explain each object), explain what the object is, why you chose it, and what it represents in the book.
3. **Theme (25 pts)** – Identify a theme from the novel. Identify that theme and write a paragraph explaining your theme, in detail, using textual evidences to support your theme.
4. **Submitting this project** – You may turn this folder in during the Student Open House day or on the first day of school, August 11th.

Option II – Movie Project. (100 pts) Using iMovie, Movie Maker, or Adobe Spark Video, students will create a short film to represent their learning and understanding of the novel they choose. Students will create and film a 2 to 5-minute video based on the book. You may enlist friends and family members to be actors in your film but they may not help you with your film’s design, captions, or connections to the novel. Your original film must include visual and audio elements. Visual element (what is seen) options are video, still images, charts/maps and text. Audio element (what is heard) options are dialogue, voiceover, background music, and sound effects. Using these elements, your video must include the following requirements:

1. **Vocabulary** – You should identify and define at least three unfamiliar vocabulary words found in the novel. Each word must come from a different chapter. You can also use text in the video to identify and define the word. Include the chapter where the word is located.
2. **Symbolism** – Identify symbolism from the novel. Symbolism is a literary device that uses symbols (concrete) to represent something beyond the literal meaning (abstract). Identify two examples of symbolism in the novel. Select two objects (concrete) to represent symbolism (symbolism) from the book. Your video should identify these two objects, why you chose it, and what it represents in the book. You can use any of the visual and/or audio elements to do accomplish this requirement.
3. **Theme** - Identify a theme from the novel. This theme can be represented throughout the video or explain explicitly using visual and/or audio elements.
4. **Author's Choice** - You may use images or acting that depict scenes from the book, include another symbolism, additional vocabulary, or other connections to the novel. You can use text and any of the visual and/or audio elements to enhance your video.
5. **Submitting this project** – You must email me your video as an attachment. You must include your name and class period so that I may view them to score their project. This must be emailed to me between Aug. 1st and before the first day of school, August 11th. Email to: jsparks@lexingtonchristian.org

Option III – Instagram Project. (100 pts) Using Instagram, students will create a new account to represent their learning and understanding of the novel they choose. Students will need to post 10 original images (see specifics below) with 10 captions and use the #Eng8_LCA2021 for each image in their account. Emojis and additional hashtags are encouraged to be included with each image. Students will then need to follow my classroom account, jsparks127, and message me their name and class period so that I may follow them to score their project. You may enlist friends and family members to be models in the images. They may not help you with your account design, captions, or image construction.

1. **Theme** - One image should identify a theme from the novel. Your caption should explain how your image connects to the theme. Include the #Eng8_LCA2021.
2. **Symbolism** – Two images should identify symbolism from the novel. Symbolism is a literary device that uses symbols (concrete) to represent something beyond the literal meaning (abstract). Identify two examples of symbolism in the novel. Select two objects (concrete) to represent symbolism (symbolism) from the book. Your captions should explain how each object represents symbolism and why you chose it. Include the #Eng8_LCA2021 with each image.
3. **Vocabulary** - Three images should identify unfamiliar vocabulary. Each image should identify and define at least one unfamiliar word found the novel. Each word must come from a different chapter. You can also use the caption to identify and define the word. Include the chapter where the word is located. Include the #Eng8_LCA2021 with each image.
4. **Author's Choice** - Four images are the author's choice. You may use images that depict scenes from the book, identify more symbolism, additional vocabulary, or other connections to the novel. Use the caption area to explain your images. Include the #Eng8_LCA2021 with each image.

5. Submitting this project – You must follow my classroom account, jsparks127, and direct message me your name and class period so that I may follow them to score their project. This must be completed before the first day of school, August 11th.

Vocabulary Definitions to Assist in Summer Reading

THEME: A main idea that spans throughout the story and can be applied to most people's thoughts and actions. It is not specific to the characters in the story. For example, a main theme in J. R. R. Tolkien's novel, *The Hobbit*, is the devastating effects of greed. Once Smaug has been killed, Thorin Oakenshield has enough gold in front of him to "last 100 lifetimes" and yet he still wants more. He is even willing to go to war, and it is war that teaches Thorin that while gold is valuable, friendship is priceless.

SYMBOL/SYMBOLISM: Symbolism is a literary device that uses symbols (concrete) to represent something beyond the literal meaning (abstract). For example, in J. R. R. Tolkien's novel, *The Hobbit*, the Arkenstone symbolizes the good 'ole days of peace—a time when Thorin's ancestors were at one with nature and the species of Middle Earth. A time when Middle Earth lived in harmony. Thorin is desperate to keep the Arkenstone, and ultimately it is the very thing that sends Thorin into war.

Advanced English 8 novels for 2021-2022

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Advanced English 8 Summer Reading Choices – Students will select ONE of the novels from this list to read AND complete the summer reading assignment.

1. *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephan Crane 978-1416500254
2. *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London 978-1503302945
3. *This Present Darkness* by Frank E. Peretti 978-1581345285

School Year Novels – All students are required to purchase these books and must be turned in to the teacher by August 31st.

1. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain (*) 978-0486400778
2. *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien 978-0547928227
3. *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck 978-0140177374

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Advanced English 8 Summer Reading Novel Summaries

Students will **select ONE** of the novels from this list to read AND complete the summer reading assignment.

The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane

Historical Fiction, Military History, Civil War

Henry Fleming had no idea how horrible war really was. He has joined the Union army because of his romantic ideas of military life, but soon finds himself in the middle of a battle against a regiment of Confederate soldiers.

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

Adventure, Fiction, Historical Fiction

Buck is a big-hearted dog whose blissful domestic life gets turned upside down when he is suddenly uprooted from his California home and transplanted to the exotic wilds of the Alaskan Yukon in the 1890s. Based on London's experiences as a gold prospector in the Canadian wilderness and his ideas about nature and the struggle for existence, *The Call of the Wild* is a tale about unbreakable spirit and the fight for survival in the frozen Alaskan Klondike.

This Present Darkness

Christian Fiction, Fantasy, Spiritual Warfare

When a strange force of evil in the form of a shapeless shadow begins taking over the small town of Ashton. Marshall Hogan, editor of the local paper, is unknowingly helped by angels as he searches for a way to save his family.

8th Grade Advanced English Summer Reading Assignment

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