

Summer Reading 2020-21 (Grade 9)

Instructions: Students entering into grade 9 must fulfill two requirements for summer reading: (1) each student must read two books this summer, one from each of the lists below, and (2) each student must complete one of the projects presented below. Books must be completed by and projects are due on the first day of school.

Concept: The conflict between the natural and spiritual life is one inherent to the Christian experience. In Romans 8:7 Paul says, “the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.” This shared struggle is one common to all who believe. What then is the proper response to the intense rivalry between the flesh and the spirit? Paul again chimes in by commanding his readers to set their minds “on things above, not on things on the earth” (Colossians 3:2). It would seem that a simple shifting of the head is all it takes; look up. The novels of C.S. Lewis embody this attitude by presenting characters with a similar choice in perspective. Yet, more often than not, literature produces a competing voice that applauds a degradation rather than an elevation. This choice of books is an attempt to show such a divergence. By positioning Lewis’s novels in opposition to a more secular orientation, readers will be challenged to reflect on the daily mental battles that make up their own lives.

For the **first book**, choose one from the following list:

- *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis (ISBN: 0060652950)
- *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis (ISBN: 0060652934)
- *Out of the Silent Planet* by C.S. Lewis (ISBN: 0743234901)

For the **second book**, choose one from the following list:

- *The Lord of the Flies* by William Golding (ISBN: 0399501487)
- *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson (ISBN: 9780486266886)
- *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde (ISBN: 9780486278070)

Choose **one project** from the following list:

- Write a paper about how the struggle between natural and spiritual life are reflected in the books you read. Your paper should be broken into two parts. The **first part** will deal specifically with an analysis of each book that answers the following questions: (1) What is natural life? (2) What is spiritual life? (3) How does each author respond to the struggle between natural and spiritual life? (4) Is each author’s idea of this struggle in accord or opposition to the other author? How so? The **second part** of your paper should be a personal response that answers the

following questions: (1) Why is understanding the struggle between the natural and spiritual, personally, important for your life? (2) How has reading books that deal so extensively with this struggle affected your life? This paper should follow the requirements below:

- Length: three pages
 - Section one: two pages (500 words)
 - Section two: one page (250 words)
- MLA Style
- Typed - Times New Roman, size 12

● Make a short film (at least 5 minutes) in which the struggle between natural and spiritual life, according to each book, is presented. In addition, you will write a personal response to the books you read. **The film** will seek to analyse the books by portraying answers, directly or symbolically, to the following questions: (1) What is natural life? (2) What is spiritual life? (3) How does each author respond to the struggle between natural and spiritual life? (4) Is each author's idea of this struggle in accord or opposition to the other author? How so? This could take place as an interview of the authors/characters or as its own story, but it is in no way limited by that format. It is possible for two or more students to work together on this project, however, the addition of each student will add one minute and thirty seconds to the production. This must be e-mailed to kashibley@ggwo.org before the first day of school. **The paper** should be a personal response that answers the following questions: (1) Why is understanding the struggle between the natural and spiritual, personally, important for your life? (2) How has reading books that deal so extensively with this struggle affected your life? This paper should follow the requirements below:

- Length: one page (250 words)
- MLA Style
- Typed - Times New Roman, size 12

● Draw a comic book or make a collage painting in which the struggle between natural and spiritual life, according to each book, is presented. In addition, you will write a personal response to the books you read. **The art** will seek to analyse the books by portraying answers, directly or symbolically, to the following questions: (1) What is natural life? (2) What is spiritual life? (3) How does each author respond to the struggle between natural and spiritual life? (4) Is each author's idea of this struggle in accord or opposition to the other author? How so? The formatting is up to the student. It can be drawn in a notebook, on a posterboard, or it can be done on the computer. The main thing is that the ideas that the student is trying to express are fully portrayed. **The paper** should be a personal response that answers the following questions: (1) Why is understanding the struggle between the natural and spiritual, personally, important for your life? (2) How has reading books that deal so extensively with this struggle affected your life? This paper should follow the requirements below:

- Length: one page (250 words)
- MLA Style

- Typed - Times New Roman, size 12

Note on Access: All books from the reading list can be purchased at a relatively low cost from Amazon, Abebooks, and other similar book vendors, however, I also recommend using your local library which offers physical, digital, and audio access to the majority of the list. It is also possible to find a variety of books for free in pdf format online.

If you have any questions about summer reading, please feel free to contact me at:
kashibley@ggwo.org.

Sincerely,
Mr. Shibley
High School English Teacher

Note to Parents/Guardians:

The novels from the second list may contain some things that you do not find suitable for your child. I have read, reviewed, and chosen them for the opposition of their characters to a Christian view-point. This in no way implies that the novels are in any way crude or graphic. They are classics, by which I mean that they are generally accepted as good literature, but they are also clean enough to read. I do, however, understand that you may be uncertain as to whether a specific novel is alright for your child. This is why I have presented three novels in that list for consideration. I encourage you to review them for yourself if you have any concerns. Thank you for your time, and God bless you.