

Summer Reading Requirements 8TH GRADE

Parents and Students:

Students are to read one required novel and will be asked to write about it in some way. **The annotations, class discussions, and the written assignments will be the first grades of the 2026-27 school year.**

- I. **REQUIRED NOVEL: *The Hobbit*:** Bilbo Baggins, a little hobbit, will start off as a timid fellow who loves the comfort of his hobbit hole and does not like to wander off on adventures. However, as the novel progresses, **he becomes courageous**, taking on a dangerous task which he performs, **despite his fears**. Your job, as you journey with Bilbo to a dangerous mountain to face a dragon, **is to take notes on his journey and transformation**. What is he like as he begins his journey, in what ways does he change, what brings about the change, and what type of person is he by the end of this story? Take notes on his journey from a timid hobbit to a heroic friend. You are also to look for three specific heroic traits that he possesses with proof from the text. Take notes on his journey, as you will be required to study the “heroes journey” and participate in Socratic Discussions. You will be required to have original thought, comment on others’ ideas, and come to conclusions on your own. Also come prepared to draw your illustration, have a quote picked to go with it, and be ready to explain its significance to the novel and to life in general in a well-developed paragraph. Be prepared to write the theme-what the author believes about life and the human person.

Required Homework-for a major grade:

1. Annotations/Notes are required for each chapter of *The Hobbit*. Look back over what to look for as you read, and take notes as you read each day. Pay attention to the characters, specifically Bilbo and those he interacts with closely, and note what seems meaningful to the plot, characterization, and theme.
 2. You should have significant notes, written in a journal or other paper, to turn in for a grade. You should have at least a page of notes per chapter. Also write meaningful quotes as you go, and note page numbers.
 - DO NOT depend on the movie for your knowledge of this novel. It will be obvious if you do because it does not follow the book. You will receive a zero for using the movie for notes, discussion, etc. No exceptions. There will not be an alternative assignment.
 - DO NOT use AI. It will be obvious if you do because you will not be able to go into depth as you write and discuss. You will receive a zero for using AI for notes, discussions, etc. No exceptions. There will not be an alternative assignment.
- II. **Optional BONUS NOVEL: *The Screwtape Letters*:** This novel is about a demon and his demon uncle. The demon uncle tries to teach his demon nephew many subtle ways to lead a human away from God. In doing so, you will notice that the enemy works to keep us from God in very sneaky ways. If we know this, we can resist the enemy, stay closer to God, and become a stronger Christian.
- Required Homework:** As you read, look for ways in which the enemy tries to tempt us into sin, tempt us away from God, and tempt us to believe lies. As always, look for proof. Take notes on paper or in your book. Write down page numbers to go with your notes. See the 8th grade reading requirements for all expectations and any homework.

I look forward to seeing all of you back in August. Have a blessed and safe summer vacation.

Ms. Rhame