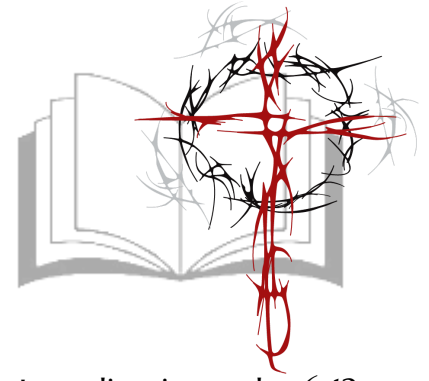


# 26-27 Middle School Independent Reading Program Overview



The Aurora Christian School English department requires independent reading in grades 6-12 to accomplish the following four objectives:

1. To encourage the enjoyment of reading
2. To improve students' reading comprehension—and writing—skills
3. To allow students to develop and exercise their ability to discern what is true and godly in what they read
4. To prepare students for the expectations of the colleges they will attend

The College Board suggests books of intellectual and educational merit, books that are part of the Western literary canon or esteemed by academics and scholars as essential reading for the college-bound student. (We have also included other classic and faith-based books of merit on the reading options lists.) Because some of the books on the list do not represent a Christian worldview and may contain language, sexual content, or philosophy contrary to the beliefs and values of your family, it is important that selections are made carefully.

At the start of the fall semester, you will receive a Google Form. On this form you must indicate that you are aware of students' freedom of choice and will be responsible to monitor and approve your own child's appropriate selections. Students may choose to read any books that they have not already read from the reading list.

It is wise to select and obtain books in advance; students must have hard copies of their selected books with them in class by the first Friday of each reading rotation. If a student has not obtained his/her book within 1 week of that assigned date, he/she loses the "choice" and must read a book that we provide and take an objective test over the book, with no option for any creative alternatives that other students may have. Although it is not mandatory, students may begin their Independent Reading on the first day of summer vacation and may read ahead of the deadlines.

## **\*\*TAKE NOTE\*\***

- The assessment for each quarter's Independent Reading book will account for a test grade.
- Individual teachers will explain grade-level preferences and assessments during the first week of school.
- Students who do not read the book or who turn in work that is not their original creation (AI-generated, or plagiarized) will receive no credit for this assignment.

- Students may **not** use books they have already read - independently or in a class.

## Assessment Due Dates

Book #1: October 8, 2026

Book #2: December 10, 2026

Book #3: March 11, 2027

Book #4: May 20, 2027

Assessments vary by grade level and will be explained in English classes during the first week of school in the fall.

## Middle School Reading Lists

*\*Others by teacher approval (confirm with teacher BEFORE purchasing/beginning reading)*

### Author: Title (Fiction)

Adams, Richard: *Watership Down*

Alcott, Louisa May: *Little Men*

Alcott, Louisa May: *Little Women*

Balliett, Blue and Brett Helquist: (*Chasing Vermeer* series)

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker: *The War that Saved My Life*

Burnett, Francis Hodgson: *A Little Princess*

Burnett, Francis Hodgson: *The Secret Garden*

Butler, Kathy: (*The Dream Keeper Saga*)

Chow, Karen S.: *Miracle*

Currie, Rob: *Time for Courage*

Currie, Rob: *Hunger Winter: A WWII Novel*

Curtis, Christopher Paul: *Bud, Not Buddy*

Davis, Bryan: *Dragons in our Midst*

Davis, Sampson, et all: *The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill A Dream*

Farley, Walter: *The Black Stallion*

Forbes, Esther: *Johnny Tremain*

George, Jean Craighead: *My Side of the Mountain*

George, Jessica Day: *Tuesdays at the Castle*

Gilbreth, Frank G. and Ernestine Gilbreth Carey: *Cheaper By the Dozen*

Gilbreth, Frank G. and Ernestine Gilbreth Carey: *Belles On Their Toes*

Gipson, Fred: *Old Yeller*

Glaser, Karina Yan: *A Duet for Home*

Goldman, William: *The Princess Bride*

Groman, Hollingsworth, Alyssa: *The Eleventh Trade*

Hale, Shannon: *The Goose Girl*

Hale, Shannon: (*The Princess Academy* series)

Hunt, Linda Malaley: *Fish in a Tree*

Kamkwamba, William, et all: *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*

Kelly, Lynne: *Song for a Whale*

Kipling, Rudyard: *The Jungle Book*

Korman, Gordon: *Restart*

Lewis, C.S.: *The Chronicles of Narnia* (choose - except *The Silver Chair*, which is taught in class)

Lin, Grace: *When the Sea Turned to Silver*

Lofting, Hugh: (*Dr. Dolittle* series - choose)

London, Jack: *The Call of the Wild*

London, Jack: *White Fang*

Lowry, Lois: *The Giver*

Montgomery, L.M.: *Anne of Green Gables*

Nielson, Jennifer A: *A Night Divided*

Palacio, R.J.: *Wonder*

Park, Linda Sue: *A Single Shard*

Paterson, Katherine: *Bridge to Terabithia*

Paulson, Gary: *Hatchet*

Peretti, Frank: *The Cooper Kids*

Peterson, Andrew and Joe Sutfinn: (*The Wingfeather*)

Saga)  
Pyle, Howard: *Men of Iron*  
Raum, Elizabeth: *Crossroads Among the Gentiles*  
Rawls, Wilson: *Where the Red Fern Grows*  
Rose, Abigail: *Last Chronicles of Light*  
Rue, Nancy: (*The Christian Heritage series - choose*)  
Shirer, Priscilla: *The Prince Warriors*  
Smith, S.D.: (*The Green Ember series*)  
Stevenson, Robert Louis: *The Black Arrow*  
Stevenson, Robert Louis: *Treasure Island*  
Taylor, Mildred: *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*  
Tolkien, J.R.R.: *The Hobbit*  
Tolkien, J.R.R.: *Lord of the Rings*  
Verne, Jules: *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*  
Wood, Mary Rose: (*The Incurable Children of Ashton Place series*)  
Wrallings, Marjorie: *The Yearling*  
Wyss, Johann: *The Swiss Family Robinson*  
Yang, Kelly: *Front Desk*

### **Author: Title (Non-Fiction)**

Brother Andrew: *God's Smuggler*  
Davis, Sampson, et all: *The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill A Dream*  
Downey, Paul W.: *The Man You Could Be*  
Durso, Natalie: *I.D. Who Am I in Christ?*  
George, Elizabeth: *A Young Woman After God's Own Heart*  
Grover, Michelle: *No Matter What: You Can Rejoice*  
Lucado, Max & Jenna Lucado Bishom: *You Were Made to Make a Difference*  
Lucado, Max: *Just Like Jesus*  
Schmidt, Cary: *Different By Design*  
Schmidt, Cary: *Music Matters*  
Sophia, Anne & Elizabeth Botkin: *So Much More*  
Tagliapietra, Ron: *The Seven Wonders of the World*  
Thomas, Nathan: *What's Stopping You*  
Wallace, J. Warner & Susie Wallace: *Cold-Case Christianity for Kids*

### **Author: Title (Biographies)**

Abbott, Jacob: *Alfred the Great*  
Abbott, Jacob: *Christopher Columbus*  
Abbott, Jacob: *Elizabeth I*  
Abbott, Jacob: *Madame Roland*  
Abbott, Jacob: *William the Conqueror*  
Geoffreys, Clayton: (sports biographies - pick an athlete)

Tagliapietra, Ron: *Great Adventurers of the Twentieth Century*  
Thayer, William: *Benjamin Franklin*  
Thayer, William: *Booker T. Washington*  
Thayer, William: *George Washington*  
Thayer, William: *James A Garfield: The Preacher President*

### **Author: Title (Christian Biographies)**

Brother Andrew: *God's Smuggler*  
Davis, Katie: *Kisses from Katie*  
Elliot, Elisabeth: *Through Gates of Splendor*  
Fahs, Sophia L.: *Alexander Mackay: God's Engineer*  
Hull, J. Mervin: *Adoniram Judson: God's Pioneer*  
Mathews, Basil: *David Livingstone*  
Miller, Basil: *George Muller: Man of Faith and Miracles*  
Moore, Henry Charles: *Through Flood and Flame*  
Olson, Bruce: *Bruchko*  
Repp, Gloria: *Nothing Daunted: The Story of Isobel Kuh*  
Swift, Catherine: *C.S.Lewis (Heroes of the Cross S.)*  
Swift, Catherine: *Elizabeth Fry (Heroes of the Cross)*  
Swift, Catherine: *Gladys Aylward*  
Ten Boom, Corrie: *The Hiding Place*  
Vins, Natasha: *Children of the Storm*  
Woychuk, N.A.: *Edward VI: The British Josiah*

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