



English IV Required Summer Reading



11th Grade going into 12th Grade

Research shows that students who read, score better on verbal tests and write more effectively. Since this is one of our academic goals at ACA, we are requiring all Secondary Students to read two books during the summer. One book has already been selected by your teacher and you are to select an additional book from the list below.

All English IV students are required to read *The Once and Future King* (T.H. White) There will be a quiz on the second day of school. This is the book that we will be analyzing during the first grading period; in order to complete this unit successfully, students must have read this book prior to the start of school. Review characters' names, plot, conflicts, setting, author's purpose, and themes prior to testing. Be sure to take study notes as you read! However, notes will not be used on tests! Students are also required to complete a Paper Bag Project (see below).

You must have a copy of the required book for the first 3 weeks of class.

For the second book, students are required to choose a book from the list below and complete the attached Major Works Data Sheet. The assignment for the second book is due on the first day of school.

Required Book:

***The Once and Future King* (T. H. White)**

This novel tells a variety of exciting tales about the legendary King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table. Among these stories are "The Sword and the Stone", the tale of how young Arthur proved himself to be the rightful king of England; "The Queen of Air and Darkness", an account of the enmity between Arthur and Queen Morgause, his half sister; and "The Ill-Made Knight," a narrative about King Arthur's most valiant follower, Sir Lancelot. T.H. White's humorous, imaginative, and suspenseful retellings of these ancient legends will delight today's readers.

Paper Bag Project for *The Once and Future King* (due second day of school)

Complete a paper bag project that displays your understanding of the novel you read over the summer. The OUTSIDE of your bag must contain:

- Your name and period
- Your book's title and author
- A picture that shows us what the novel is about (you can be creative with this)
-

The INSIDE of your bag must contain:

- Something that symbolizes the main character (protagonist)
- Something that tells us about the setting
- Something that symbolizes the message
- One page of writing (does not need to be typed, but must be legible) that explains your objects. Write in complete sentences and edit your writing.

2nd Book - Choose one of the following and complete a Data Worksheet to be turned in on the first day of school:

***The Book of Merlin* (T. H. White)**

This book about the legends of King Arthur's court focuses on the figure of Merlyn, or Merlin as it is sometimes spelled. Merlyn is a wizard whose magic and wisdom are behind much of what happens in Arthur's world. In this charming and thought-provoking fantasy, White explores the relationships among Arthur, Merlyn, and various animal teachers, including ants, geese, and a badger. Written during World War II this story has as one of its main themes the attempt – in White's words – "to find an antidote to war." It looks forward to a time when Arthur will return, bringing "happiness... and chivalry..."

***Beowulf* (Seamus Heaney's bilingual edition)**

In this epic tale of bravery, composed more than a thousand years ago, the hero Beowulf faces three great battles. As a young man, he journeys to Denmark to help the Danish King destroy a swamp-dwelling monster named Grendel. Fighting barehanded, Beowulf mortally wounds Grendel. Then, the hero takes on an even fiercer opponent, Grendel's mother. Much later, after a long reign as king in his own land, Beowulf must face a fire-breathing dragon. Read this exciting tale to learn the outcome of his last, and most challenging, battle.

The Canterbury Tales (Geoffrey Chaucer)

This lively poem is the account of a pilgrimage from London to the shrine of St. Thomas a Becket in Canterbury. Along the way, the pilgrims, who represent a cross section of medieval society, tell tales to amuse themselves. The variety of travelers – among them are a knight, a monk, a merchant, a cook, a physician, and a miller – ensures the variety of their stories. As you join this group, be prepared for an entertaining journey

Sir Gawain & the Green Knight (New Verse by Simon Armitage)

This tale begins when a mysterious and powerful Green Knight bursts into King Arthur's New Year's feast. Fully armed and looking down on the feasters from his horse, he proposes this challenge: Any of the knights may try to behead him if he, the Green Knight, can then attempt to behead his attacker next year. The noble Sir Gawain accepts the challenge and beheads the boastful intruder. To everyone's astonishment, the man picks up his head and leaves. This eerie episode starts a chain of events that will take Sir Gawain to the wild regions of the North and to the even wilder regions of his own heart.

Utopia (Thomas More)

In 1516, The English statesman and scholar Sir Thomas More published a description of the kingdom of Utopia. Its title, which in Greek means "no place," was a clue to readers that Utopia was a fictional kingdom. Yet More used fiction to explore such real and important issues as women's rights, religious toleration, the role of reason in government, the purposes of education, and the proper justifications of war. Because many of these same issues are topics in today's newspapers, More's "no place" still has an important place in our own times.

Visit www.oucilla.org for a complete listing of the summer Reading lists and assignments.

Acquiring the books:

- Books may be borrowed from a public or private library.
- Books may be purchased at bookstores such as Borders and Books-a-Million.
- Books may be purchased online (shipping will take several weeks, so please plan accordingly). Try amazon.com; barnesandnoble.com; ecampus.com.
- Some books may be out of copyright and available FOR FREE in electronic format (e-readers, .pdf, .txt)