

AQUINAS ACADEMY
2011 Summer Reading List
8th Grade

Students in grade 8 are required to read **two** books this summer for English class and **one** book for Introductory Physical Science (IPS).

For English book number one, students will give an oral report in class on the **second** day of school. This report should include information about the setting, characters, plot, and theme of the book, as well as the student's opinion of the book. However, this report should **not** be just an ordinary book report. Instead, students are encouraged (and **required**) to be as **creative** as possible. **Do something different!**

Some suggestions include (but are not limited to):

- act** (and dress) as one of the main characters and tell us your side of things.
- create** a puppet show.
- make** a mobile from items related to the book and then explain them.
- prepare** a television commercial about the book.
- present** an important scene from the book using masks.
- design** a poster to help explain a key point, character, or theme.
- "**pitch**" this novel to a prospective movie studio.

This report should be memorized, but the student may occasionally refer to note cards. The report should be between 2-3 minutes in length.

For English book number two, students should carefully and completely answer the questions listed **on the last page of these instructions**. Please follow these requirements:

- do all work in ink or type it on a computer; all work must be neat and legible.
- copy the question before each answer; skip a line between the question and its answer.
- write in complete sentences; some answers may only need to be one or two sentences long, but others will require that the student write a paragraph or perhaps two.

This written work is due the first week of school.

Be sure to read the full-length novel, not the abridged or young readers' edition.

Choose two of the following for English class:

Jane Eyre--Charlotte Bronte

Robinson Crusoe--Daniel Defoe

Great Expectations--Charles Dickens

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde--Robert Louis Stevenson

The Time Machine--H. G. Wells

Fellowship of the Ring--J. R. R. Tolkien*

The Two Towers--J. R. R. Tolkien*

Return of the King--J. R. R. Tolkien*

*NOTE: Students may read only ONE book from the Tolkien trilogy as part of the assignment, but they are certainly welcome to read all three for personal enrichment/enjoyment.

Choose one of the following for IPS:

1) *Gregor Mendel: Genetics Pioneer*, by Della Yannuzzi

2) *Louis Pasteur, Revolutionary Scientist*, by Allison Lassieur

3) *Marie Curie, A Scientific Pioneer*, by Allison Lassieur

4) *The Wright Brothers, Inventors of the Airplane*, by Bernard Ryan, Jr.

5) *Thomas Edison, The Man Who Lit Up the World*, by Martin Woodside

The first four choices are books that are hard-bound, library quality books. Because these four books are not stocked in bookstores and because of the expense of ordering a hard-bound book online, we have purchased multiple used copies of each of these four biographies and they will be available in the school office to be lent out for up to two weeks at a time throughout the summer. The last choice, *Thomas Edison, The Man Who Lit Up the World* is a paperback that may be purchased in bookstores or ordered online (\$5.95).

For each of these choices, the student is to answer in written form the following (1 or 2 paragraphs for each point):

Choose a scientific theory, an invention or process created by the scientist that you read about and:

1. Discuss how this theory, discovery or invention changed the way we think about the physical world.

2. Describe the specific steps of the scientific method that the scientist/inventor used to test or prove his hypothesis or in constructing his invention.

This written work will be due the third week of school.

Preparation for 8th grade science fair project:

Students in 8th grade will be required to improve or expand the project they completed in 7th grade. They should keep all of the materials they generated for that project. They will also have the option to do an entirely new project for which they will need to gain teacher approval.

Over the summer, students should write in their journals ideas for improving or expanding the experimental part of their project as well as improvements to the other written parts such as the background research. They may start this work before returning to school. Students will not be allowed to submit an unchanged project.

The new experimentation needs to be completed by early November and an abstract written. Students whose projects are judged to be superior will be given the option to compete in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Sciences competition. All student projects will be judged and graded at Aquinas, the grade becoming part of their science grade.

Please feel free to direct any questions you may have to Mrs. Dill by phone or e-mail this summer.

Mrs. Mary Dill

English Class Book Number Two

Student's Name _____

Title of Novel _____

Author of Novel _____

1. Where and when does this book take place? How is the setting important to this story?
2. Who is the protagonist--the main character--in the book?
3. What kind of person is the main character, and why do you think he/she behaves this way?
4. What challenge or conflict does the main character encounter?
5. How is the conflict resolved?
6. In what specific ways does the main character change throughout this story?
7. Choose a sentence or short passage from this book that you think is important or very wise. Copy it and then explain what it means to you.
8. What is the lesson that you learned from this book? How can you apply it to your life?
9. What one thing would you change about this book and why? How would you change it? Be very specific in your explanation here.
10. On a scale of 1-10 (low to high), how would you rate this novel? Give **at least three** specific reasons for your rating.