



OMNIBUS SUMMER READING LIST | 9th Grade

Reading is the gateway to knowledge. There is no more valuable learning activity. Our summer reading program is designed to encourage year-round immersion in literature.

We have provided the following summer reading lists to assist you in selecting the best literature available for you. The number of books is not as important as the quality of books and the time spent reading. Below are two categories of books you are asked to read from. The first is the Primary book list. You may choose to read one of these selections. The other is the Secondary book list. You must choose one of these but are free to read as many as you like.

Why is reading assigned over the summer? Reading keeps your scholarly muscles in shape, working out your brain by:

- * **Building vocabulary**
- * **Improving spelling through word recognition**
- * **Focusing your thoughts**
- * **Introducing new people, places, ideas, and situations**
- * **Exposure to the time period we will be studying (Martin Luther to Modern Day)**

Please read your choices over the summer and complete the short comprehension evaluation (see attached). This packet will be sent home at the end of the year for every student entering 9th grade.

These evaluation assignments are due on September 8, 2023.

PRIMARY BOOKS

Choose one of the following:

1. *Silence by Shusaku Endo*
2. *A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens*
3. *Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt*

SECONDARY BOOKS

Choose one of the following:

1. *Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes*
2. *The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare*
3. *The Reb and the Redcoats by Constance Savery*
4. *God's Smuggler by Brother Andrew*



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PRIMARY BOOKS

Choose one of the following:

1. *Silence by Shusaku Endo*
 - <https://celmoreblog.files.wordpress.com/2016/05/235449575-silence-shusaku-endo-william-johnston.pdf>
 - Audiobook Available on Audible
2. *A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens*
 - Audiobook on Hoopla app
 - Can be picked up from Hillcrest
3. *Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt*
 - Audiobook on Hoopla app

SECONDARY BOOKS

Choose one of the following:

1. *Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes*
 - Audiobook on Audible
 - Copies available from Mr. Garvin's classroom
2. *The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare*
 - Audiobook on Youtube
3. *The Reb and the Redcoats by Constance Savery*
 - Audiobook on Audible
4. *God's Smuggler by Brother Andrew*
 - Audiobook on Hoopla app



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Silence

Silence is the story of the Japanese persecution of Christians that occurred in the 1600s. More specifically, Endo traces the life of Sebastian Rodrigues, a Portuguese missionary from the Society of Jesus, as he tries to survive as a Christian priest working in Japan. Rodrigues and two of his friends journey to Macao, China. They hope to gain entrance into Japan in order to locate their former teacher, Christovao Ferreira. Ferreira has been working in Japan for over thirty years; but correspondence from the priest abruptly ceased, and only a few tales of how Ferreira apostatized following several torturous days suspended in the pit tell what happened.

Tale of Two Cities

Unjustly imprisoned for 18 years in the Bastille, Dr. Alexandre Manette is reunited with his daughter, Lucie, and safely transported from France to England. It would seem that they could take up the threads of their lives in peace. As fate would have it though, the pair are summoned to the Old Bailey to testify against a young Frenchman — Charles Darnay — falsely accused of treason. Strangely enough, Darnay bears an uncanny resemblance to another man in the courtroom, the dissolute lawyer's clerk Sydney Carton. It is a coincidence that saves Darnay from certain doom more than once.

Across Five Aprils

Jethro Creighton, the protagonist, is young and idealistic when the Civil War begins. At first he thinks the war will be neat, full of marching soldiers and demonstrative patriotism. He learns the realities of war soon enough as he watches his three brothers, his cousin, and his teacher go off to fight.

Johnny Tremain

Fourteen-year-old Johnny Tremain, an apprentice silversmith with a bright future ahead of him, injures his hand in a tragic accident, forcing him to look for other work. In his new job as a horse-boy, riding for the patriotic newspaper The Boston Observer and as a messenger for the Sons of Liberty, he encounters John Hancock, Samuel Adams, and Dr. Joseph Warren. Soon Johnny is involved in the pivotal events of the American Revolution, from the Boston Tea Party to the first shots fired at Lexington.



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The Witch of Blackbird Pond

Sixteen-year-old Kit Tyler is marked by suspicion and disapproval from the moment she arrives on the unfamiliar shores of colonial Connecticut in 1687. Alone and desperate, she has been forced to leave her beloved home on the island of Barbados and join a family she has never met.

Torn between her quest for belonging and her desire to be true to herself, Kit struggles to survive in a hostile place. Just when it seems she must give up, she finds a kindred spirit. But Kit's friendship with Hannah Tupper, believed by the colonists to be a witch, proves more taboo than she could have imagined and ultimately forces Kit to choose between her heart and her duty.

Reb and the Redcoats

The Revolutionary War is seen through the eyes of a British family to whom an American prisoner of war has been entrusted. Technically the young prisoner is in Uncle Lawrence's custody, but the children soon forge a forbidden friendship with him. He becomes The Reb and they, his Redcoats. After the Reb nearly dies, even Uncle Lawrence, embittered by the unjust death of a friend in America, thaws toward him—but this doesn't stop the Reb from scheming to escape.

God's Smuggler

A true story about a rebellious young man-turned-missionary named Andrew. Andrew grew up in Holland before WWII where he dreamed of and sought out adventure. After the war, he joined the army and fought in the East Indies where he was eventually injured and returned home. Through a series of events and influential people, he discovered God's hand in his life and decided to become a missionary. He traveled to Poland where he glimpsed how difficult it was to be a Christian in a communist country. He learned that the communist governments behind the iron curtain were not allowing Bibles to be printed. Andrew decided to smuggle bibles into Russia, Bulgaria, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, China and other countries. The story showed the miraculous ways in which God provided for Andrew and his companions as they spread the word of God throughout Communist Europe and Asia.



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The primary & secondary books we are reading in Omnibus III in 9th grade for the 2022-2023 year.

PRIMARY BOOKS - First Semester

- Pilgrim's Progress
- Of Plymouth Plantation
- The Social Contract
- Foundational American Documents
- Foundational American Documents
- Declaration of Independence
- Articles of the Confederation
- United States Constitution
- Federalist Papers

SECONDARY BOOKS - First Semester

- Foxe's Book of Martyrs
- Frankenstein
- Pride and Prejudice
- Little Women
- Gulliver's Travels
- Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin
- Autobiography of Charles G. Finney
- Pit and the Pendulum
- Adventures of Tom Sawyer

PRIMARY BOOKS - Second Semester

- Reflections on the Revolution in France
- Uncle Tom's Cabin
- Lincoln's Speeches
- Slave Narratives
- Communist Manifesto
- Treaty of Versailles & Woodrow Wilson's 14 Points
- Mein Kampf
- Nineteen Eighty-Four

SECONDARY BOOKS - Second Semester

- The Killer Angels
- Old Man and the Sea
- Animal Farm
- Death of a Salesman
- How Should We Then Live?



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3. In paragraph form, describe your favorite scene from the book *Silence*. (8 pts.)



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A Tale of Two Cities - answer 3 of 4 questions (24 pts possible)

Describe the types of conflict (physical, moral, intellectual, or emotional) you noticed in this novel. (8 pts.)

Do you find the characters likable? Are the characters people you would want to meet? Why? (8 pts.)



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Is war a character in the novel? Explain your answer in paragraph form. (8 pts.)

Do you think Dickens was trying to make a political point with this novel? If so, how successful was he at making his point? (8 pts.)



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Part One: Multiple Choice

1. How old is Jethro when the book opens?
A. 9 B. 10 C. 8 D. 12

1. This book takes place in:
A. Indiana B. Iowa C. Kentucky D. Illinois

2. Who was involved in Mary Creighton's death?
A. Guy Wortman B. Dave Burdow C. Jethro D. Travis Burdow

3. Who is Wilse Graham and where is he from?
A. Uncle, Indiana B. Cousin, Louisiana C. Friend, Kentucky D. Cousin, Kentucky

4. What are Jethro and Ellen planting in the beginning of the book?
A. Corn B. Wheat C. Potatoes D. Hay

5. What word best describes the mood as Jethro approaches the Burdow's house?
A. Calm B. Anxious C. Excited D. Sad

Part Two: Short Answer

6. Compare how Jethro feels about war at the beginning of the novel to how he feels at the end.
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-



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7. Explain the arguments for siding with the North and for siding with the South. Do you feel that the arguments on each side are valid? Explain.

8. Explain what happened to Jethro while he was in town.

9. Explain what happened to the Creightons after they were given the threat of the bundle of switches.

10. Explain the conflict regarding Eb. How is it resolved?

11. What are Matt and Ellen's concerns regarding Jethro as they watch him grow up?

Part Three: Essay –paragraph answers, with examples and details from the text.

12-14 Choose **Three** of the following questions to respond to.

- A. Explain an internal conflict and an external conflict that Jethro faces during the course of this book.
- B. What is the significance of Walnut Hill?



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- C. Explain the theme of this book.
- D. Explain how this book would have been different if told from the perspective of Jenny.
- E. What scenes leave a lasting impression in your mind? Explain why.

12. _____

13. _____

14.



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Johnny Tremain Comprehension Test

1. Which of the following trades does Johnny wish to pursue at the beginning of the novel?
 - a. Accounting
 - b. Blacksmithing
 - c. Silversmithing
 - d. Printing
2. Why does Johnny bully Dove?
 - a. Dove is lazy
 - b. Johnny is Arrogant
 - c. Johnny is proud
 - d. All of the above
3. Why does Mr. Lapham disapprove of Johnny's arrogance?
 - a. Johnny does not have the talent to justify his pride.
 - b. Mr. Lapham is a devout Christian who believes men should be humble.
 - c. Mr. Lapham is jealous of Johnny's talent.
 - d. Mr. Lapham harbors an irrational dislike of Johnny.
4. Why does Hancock commission Mr. Lapham to make a sugar basin for a tea set?
 - a. Mr. Lapham was the original craftsman of the set.
 - b. Mr. Lapham has a reputation for making beautiful, elaborate tea sets.
 - c. Hancock has heard of Johnny's great talent, so he wants to see it in action.
 - d. Hancock confuses Mr. Lapham.



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5. Why doesn't Johnny accept Paul Revere's offer to buy the remaining time on his contract with Mr. Lapham?

- a. Paul Revere is not as good as silversmithing as Mr. Lapham.
- b. Johnny is in love with Cilla and does not want to leave her.
- c. Johnny is the chief breadwinner in the Lapham household.
- d. Johnny is too busy training to be a Minute Man.

6. How does Johnny injure his hand?

- a. Dove deliberately hands him a cracked crucible that bursts when Johnny uses it.*
- b. Johnny accidentally picks up a hot piece of metal.
- c. Dove pushes him onto the stove while he is working.
- d. Dove pours molten silver over his hand.

7. Johnny is related to which of the following wealthy Boston merchants?

- a. John Hancock
- b. Paul Revere
- c. Jonathan Lyte
- d. Samuel Adams

8. What does Rab think about Jonathan Lyte?

- a. Rab thinks Lyte is an honest, upstanding citizen.
- b. Rab thinks Lyte is crooked because he plays both the Tory and Whig sides for profit.
- c. Rab respects Lyte for being consistent and honest in his political views, even though Lyte is a Tory.
- d. Rab pretends to like Lyte because he has a crush on his daughter, Lavinia.



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9. How does Jonathan Lyte react when Johnny presents the silver cup as proof of their kinship?
- He accuses Johnny of stealing the cup and has him arrested.
 - He welcomes Johnny into the family with open arms.
 - He is not happy, but he wants to do the right thing by giving Johnny his share of the Lyte fortune.
 - He throws Johnny out of his house because he thinks Johnny is a liar.
10. Who comes to Johnny's aid after he is arrested on charges of stealing a silver cup from Jonathan Lyte?
- John Hancock
 - Rab Silsbee
 - Dove
 - Mr. Lapham
11. Whose testimony clears Johnny at his trial?
- Josiah Quincy's
 - Mrs. Lapham's
 - Dove's
 - Cilla Lapham's
12. What job does Dove take after ceasing to work as a silversmith?
- He becomes Lieutenant Stranger's stable boy.
 - He becomes a clerk for Jonathan Lyte.
 - He becomes Colonel Smith's stable boy.
 - He becomes Paul Revere's apprentice.



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13. How does Lavinia weaken the bond between Isannah and Cilla?

- a. She tells Isannah that Cilla does not love her anymore.
- b. She treats Cilla like a common servant and Isannah like a prized pet.
- c. She refuses to allow Isannah to see Cilla.
- d. She confesses her own love for Johnny.

14. Why do the Observers begin leaving James Otis out of their meetings?

- a. They suspect that Otis is a Tory spy.
- b. They believe that Otis is mentally unstable.
- c. They fear that Otis does not take the need for secrecy seriously enough.
- d. They do not think Otis is articulate or intelligent.

15. Why do Johnny and Rab toss Dove overboard during the Boston Tea Party?

- a. Johnny catches Dove stealing tea, a violation of the ethics of political protest.
- b. They want to get revenge against Dove for his role in the accident that disfigured Johnny's hand.
- c. They take pleasure in bullying Dove.
- d. They think Dove is a British spy.

16. How does England react to the Boston Tea Party?

- a. England agrees to let the colonies have political representation.
- b. England refuses to give the colonies political representation, but they revoke all taxes on imported goods.
- c. England hangs some of the culprits.
- d. England closes the port of Boston in an attempt to force the city to pay for the tea.



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17. Which of the following best describes the relationship between the colonists and the British soldiers?
- The relationship is completely acrimonious.
 - The relationship is often tense, but many soldiers and colonists have no particular animosity toward one another.
 - The relationship is not acrimonious at all.
 - The relationship is characterized by whining and petty bickering punctuated by brief displays of affection and exchanges of gifts.
18. Why does Pumpkin want to desert the British army?
- He wants to own his own farm, which is easy to achieve in the colonies and very difficult in England.
 - He is often mistreated by his commanding officer.
 - He is in love with an American girl.
 - He does not want to fight against the colonies.
19. Which of the following best describes Johnny's relationship with Lieutenant Stranger?
- It is an amicable relationship between equals.
 - Although it is an amicable relationship, Lieutenant Stranger always treats Johnny as his social inferior.
 - It is a relationship full of bitter animosity.
 - Where horsemanship is concerned, Lieutenant Stranger treats Johnny like an equal, but in all other situations he treats Johnny as his inferior.
20. Why did Johnny's father use an assumed name in Boston?



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- a. He was evading arrest.
- b. He was impersonating a French nobleman.
- c. He was ashamed to be a prisoner of war.
- d. He was an American spy.

21. What happens to Rab in the battle at Lexington?

- a. The British capture him.
- b. He is mortally wounded.
- c. He survives the battle and escapes to the Lorne house.
- d. He receives a light wound.

22. Why does it take so long for the Lytes to acknowledge Johnny as kin?

- a. The family of Johnny's father did not tell them that Johnny's mother had a child.
- b. Johnny's father used an assumed name in Boston.
- c. The family of Johnny's mother disowned her for marrying Johnny's father.
- d. All of the above

23. Who eventually repairs Johnny's injured hand?

- a. A British surgeon
- b. Doctor Church
- c. Johnny's hand is never fixed
- d. Doctor Warren



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The Witch of Blackbird Pond

Questions

1. Where was Kit living before coming to Wethersfield and why did she move? _____

2. Write two or three sentences about Matthew Wood and his reaction to Kit moving in with the family.

3. List some of the chores that Kit was expected to do. (at least 4)

4. Why do you think that Kit liked going to visit Hannah?

5. Kit got in trouble for her unusual way of teaching. Compare her teaching style with Mercy's.



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6. List **three** things that Goodwife Cruff did that upset Kit.

7. Why did Matthew Wood not want Reverend Bulkeley in his home? **What changed his mind?**

8. William wanted to marry Kit. Do you think the marriage would work? Support your opinion with a few examples.

9. By the end, the couples were: Mercy and John, Kit and Nat and William and Judith. Write a sentence or two about each couple to explain why these couples are matched correctly.

10. How do you think that Kit impacted the lives of the other characters in the book?



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The Reb and the Redcoats

1. What genre does your book belong to? Fiction, non-fiction, etc.

2. Do you like the book? Why so? If yes, would you recommend it to your friends?

3. What is the setting/background information?

4. Who are the main characters?

5. How does the story start?

6. Did you find anything funny in the story?



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7. What's your favorite part?

8. Is there a problem in the story? What is this problem?

9. Do you think that the author could have come up with a better solution (if there is one)?

10. Is there the main idea that you can identify?

11. What are the lessons the book teaches (if any)?



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12. Is the topic of the book important? Why?

13. Did any of the characters in the book do something you did not quite like?

14. Name a character from this book that you would like to have for a friend. Tell why.



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God's Smuggler

1. Briefly describe Andrew's family when he was a child. Specifically mention his mother, his father, and his brother Bastian ("Bas").

2. On Andrew's 12th birthday, May 10, 1940, what event took place that changed everything for Andrew's hometown of Witte?

3. As a young man, Andrew longed for adventure. How did he go about pursuing that adventure, and where did it take him?

4. Who was Thile, and what type of relationship did Andrew have with her?

5. Briefly describe the way natives catch monkeys out in the forest, according to Sister Patrice. How does this story apply to Andrew's own life?

6. Briefly describe Andrew's experiences at the potter's wheel in occupational therapy. What changed in that experience after he attended the revival meeting drunk-as-a-skunk?



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7. Briefly tell Greetje's story.

8. Briefly explain what the Game of the Royal Way was.

9. Briefly describe the march of socialist young people down the avenue at the end of chapter 7.

10. How did writing free articles for the Kracht Van Omhoog magazine bless Andrew?

11. Write the Prayer of God's Smuggler.

12. In Ch. 11, what did Andrew pray for the Lord to release him from (like Paul's thorn in the flesh)?

13. What was the Jugend Weihe, the Youth Consecration, and why was it a clever attack against the church?



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14. When Andrew visited The Hague, how did God answer his need for a clean passport?

15. When crossing the Rumanian border, where did Andrew put the Bibles?

16. How did Andrew and Corrie buy their house?

17. What did the Dutch Bible Society offer to do for Andrew?

18. In Cuba, how were priests and ministers classified?

19. What country was the most tightly controlled Communist country in 1965?
