

Upper School Sophomore Summer Reading
English 10: British Literature
2022-2023

Welcome to Sophomore Year and
English 10

The faculty at Heathwood Hall is convinced of the power of reading. We know regular reading is the best way to improve vocabulary and reading comprehension. We also know the strong correlation between regular reading and good writing. We have seen other exciting benefits of reading, especially fiction. In "Your Brain on Fiction," published in the New York Times March 18, 2012, Annie Murphy Hall examines the interesting and unexpected effects that reading has on our brains. Neuroscientists have found that reading fiction "stimulates the brain and even changes how we act in life." Research shows, "Individuals who frequently read fiction seem to be better able to understand other people, empathize with them, and see the world from their perspective."

For these reasons, we hope that you will not limit your reading to only those texts for this class. Keep in mind that a book can grow on you as you persevere through it. Don't give up at the first difficult passage or chapter. We have faith that you can and will be able to master these selections.

All sophomores must read **TWO** books.

One **must be** . . .

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

(ISBN: 978-0393927931)

Your second book needs to be from the following list (you will need to be able to have a conversation about this book and identify passages):

Chasing the Stars by Malorie Blackman

Room by Emma Donoghue

Out of the Silent Planet by C.S. Lewis

The Fellowship of the Ring by J.R.R. Tolkien

PLEASE NOTE: The use of SparkNotes or other reading substitutes is strictly forbidden and will be treated as an honor violation.

Read Actively!

I suggest that as you read, you take notes in a journal or on the pages of the text itself.

Note important details about characters, plot, setting, possible themes.

Note interesting passages and imagery.

Note questions that come from your reading.

Look up any unfamiliar vocabulary words and write down the definitions.

Final Notes:

-Summer reading is not going to be entertaining or engaging in the same way that beach reading or pleasure reading is, much like how a well-prepared, nuanced, gourmet meal will go down differently than Taco Bell (nothing against Taco Bell; I happen to like their crunch wraps). The point is that you should expect there to be a little bit of effort involved. Like someone skiing or hiking at higher altitudes, some acclimation may need to take place. Hang in there. Not all pain or discomfort is bad. Strength and growth come from encountering resistance and struggle.

-There may be intense or sensitive material in some of the books, and for that reason I would recommend checking out a review or summary before choosing your second novel. Also, I do not endorse or condone all language or actions taken in these books. I am, for example, personally against grave robbing and would strongly decry attempts to re-animate dead tissue. Please feel free to form your own opinions on the characters and plots of the novels.