

# English 8

## 2022 Summer Reading

Dear Eighth Grader,

**Hooray! Summer has almost arrived!** As an upperclassman, however, summer does come with responsibilities. First and foremost, you must use your summer as a time to savor the blessings of your young life—grow in your faith in God, serve others, invest in family and friends, create memories, travel, try something new— You get the idea.

Second, as a maturing young adult and budding scholar, it is essential that you keep your thinking and creative juices flowing over these next months. To that effect, I bring you: your summer reading assignments! Notice the exclamation point used in the preceding sentence. The use of this end punctuation means that I want you to be excited about the tasks you are about to complete. Contrary to popular belief, they are not designed to torture you. Instead, young scholar, brace yourself to experience the thrills of literary intrigue and adventure, as well as the delights of utter immersion in a book of your choosing.

The theme for English 8 is **Finding TRUTH**. Your summer reading is selected with this theme in mind. Your assigned text is S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders*—a ground-breaking young adult novel which captures on the timeless struggles of growing up and learning to **STAY TRUE** in a world where there will always be an “in-group” and an “out-group.” Additionally, your choice book will challenge and deepen your faith as you live vicariously through the experiences of a believer who has learned to stand firm on the **INERRANT, TRUE Word of God** and lives out their faith in radical, inspiring ways.

I hope you will be blessed by your reading this summer! I prayerfully look forward to meeting you in August!

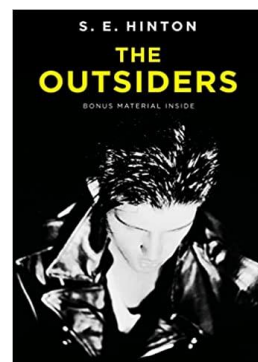
Your Teacher,

*Mrs. Steed*

Ksteed@ccslancers.com

### **Task 1-Read for Literary Experience!**

- 1. Read** S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders*. (It is recommended, but not required, that you annotate your book for moments where you see Ponyboy struggling with who he is and where he belongs (internal conflict) and moments where you see him reflecting on his divided society (Socs versus Greasers).
- 2. Be prepared to discuss and be TESTED** over the book the first few days of school. You will need to bring it to class every day until I tell you otherwise.



## **Task 2- Read for Enjoyment, Information, and Inspiration!**

1. **Read a non-fiction book** of your choice from the list of titles (below). This book should be one that most captures your interest—it entices you! Make sure your parent agrees with your selection as well.

### **Choose one non-fiction title from this list:**

-*God's Smuggler*—Brother Andrew

-*The Heavenly Man*—Brother Yun

-*Devil at My Heels*—Louie Zamperini

-*In the Presence of My Enemies*—Gracia Burnham

-*Kisses from Katie*—Katie Davis

-*SEAL of God*—Chad Williams

-*Fearless*—Eric Blehm

-*Jumping Through Fires: The Gripping Story of One Man's Escape from Revolution to Redemption*—David Nasser

When you have finished your book...

2. **Write a minimum half-page, size 11 font (Calibri) or 12 font (Times New Roman), SINGLE-spaced, letter** to me (Mrs. Steed). Tell me about ***your experience*** reading this book. ***Avoid*** telling me all about what happened (the plot) or summarizing (the arguments). Instead, refer to SPECIFIC moments/people in the book and discuss how they somehow changed your way of thinking about yourself, your beliefs and/or the world around you. Perhaps this book somehow reminded you of a Biblical truth that you'd like to discuss. Or perhaps you made a connection between yourself and a character or an event in the story. For example: Did the book mirror your life in some way? What questions about life/faith did the book raise in your mind? How has reading this book affected you? How you think? What you believe?

\*Be sure to follow the **friendly letter format**. (See example on page 4 of this packet)

\***These letters will be worth a TEST GRADE and will be collected on the first day of school.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Non-Fiction Book Response Letter Rubric (Test Grade)

|  | A  | B   | C   | D/F  |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Content</b>   | Response is skillfully crafted. SPECIFIC moments/people in the text are referred to as the experience of reading the book is richly described. Shows depth of thought and genuine contemplation. | Response describes the experience of reading the book, but is perhaps more vague when referring to the moments/people in the text.          | Response may briefly describe the experience of reading the book, but it is more focused on plot summary.                                   | Response is all plot summary or doesn't show much thinking effort.   |
| <b>Length</b>  | Letter is a minimum of a half page.  | Letter is slightly less than half a page.   | Letter is significantly less than half a page.  | Little to no attempt to meet length requirement.   |
| <b>Formatting</b><br><br>(Compare yours to the "sample letter," included in this assignment packet. If they don't look the same, you need to fix something!) | Friendly letter format is exactly followed.<br><br>Letter uses size 11 Calibri or size 12 Times New Roman, and is single spaced.   | Friendly letter format is mostly followed.<br><br>Letter is missing one of the requirements.  | Friendly letter format is somewhat followed.<br><br>Letter doesn't follow 2 of the requirements.  | Little to no attempt to follow friendly letter format or to meet requirements.   |
| <b>Grammar/Usage</b>   | Very polished: Obvious attention has been paid to use of grammatical structures and spelling/usage.  | Pretty Solid: Attention has been paid to use of grammatical structures and spelling/usage.<br><br>Errors do not affect readability/meaning. | More attention needed to be paid to grammar, spelling/usage.<br><br>Enough errors to be distracting and perhaps affect readability/meaning. | Excessive amount of grammatical, spelling/usage errors.<br><br>Errors are very distracting and significantly affect readability/meaning. |

(Current Date) July 15, 2022

Dear Mrs. Steed, (**Notice the use of a comma after the greeting**)

**Introductory Paragraph:** Use this paragraph to explain your purpose for writing. Be sure to indicate the *Title* and Author of the book you chose to read. (Remember that book titles are in *italicized type*). Try to include at least 3-4 sentences. Friendly letters are a form of casual correspondence, so the number of paragraphs and sentences per paragraph can vary greatly.

**Body:** Notice the lack of spacing between paragraphs and the use of indentation to indicate the beginning of a new paragraph (Press the “Tab” key only once when indenting). This is a more traditional letter format.

As shown in this “Example of a Friendly Letter,” no Inside Address (the recipient’s address) is needed. Many friendly letters (such as this one) omit the sender’s address and just use the date as a heading.

The body is usually one to three paragraphs in length, but there can be more. So, feel free to write your heart out! Your letter will fill at least HALF of this page (per the assignment requirements). Therefore, even though I am going to stop “talking” shortly, you will keep going—failure to do so results in point deductions (see enclosed rubric). **A word of caution to you:** Be sure to organize what you say into LOGICAL paragraphs so that you don’t ramble or repeat yourself in the attempt to meet the length requirement. The quality of how you express your thinking is ALWAYS WAY MORE IMPORTANT than how much you say.

Sincerely, (**Closing options in a friendly letter are numerous and are often casual**)

*Your Signature*

(**Sign your name in pen after the closing. Your name does not need to appear typed beneath your signature in a friendly letter, as it does in a business letter.**)

## Example of a Friendly Letter