



## 11th Grade Summer Reading 2024-2025

**Required:** *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck (Please read this last, closer to our start date in August, up to Part 3)  
(Stonehaven will provide the above to you in May of 10th grade.)  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neal Hurston  
(Please purchase any copy of this book. You need to be able to annotate.)

Read one additional book of your choice. (Purchasing is recommended, so you can annotate, but this book may be checked out of a library or read in an e-book format.) You should choose a book that is both enjoyable and an appropriate challenge. See the list on page 2 for some ideas, or consult any upper school faculty member for additional suggestions.

**Summer Reading Assessments:** Prepare for tests on *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and *East of Eden, parts 1 and 2* in the first full week of school. For the additional book, prepare for reflective writing assignments and discussions.

**How and why to surface-level annotate:** Annotation is essential when studying any text – as a teacher or as a student. Reading with a pen in hand and following these guidelines will ensure you engage with a text and help you retain what you’ve read and create a roadmap of your thoughts when you return to a book later.

Often students fall into one of two ditches regarding annotation.

1. They don’t know what to annotate/underline, so they do nothing.
2. They end up highlighting everything (so in essence have highlighted nothing) and/or get so bogged down in annotating that they take FOREVER to read – which can be discouraging too. (And we don’t want that for you.)

The goal of the surface-level annotation that Stonehaven expects throughout your academic career is simply to engage the text. Light annotating will keep your mind active and provide road-marks along the way that will help you as we revisit the text for future class exercises. It keeps the pages from being simply meaningless rectangles of text. It truly is helpful -- many students of the present and bygone era will confirm the value.

General reading tips:

- Always read with a pen in hand. Just making little ticks as you go keeps you engaged in the text and checking your understanding.
- Don’t be overly obsessive about note taking, but if a passage interests you, underline it, or if it’s a long one, put a bracket by it in the margin. Perhaps jot a note about why that interests you.
- If you’re confused, put a question mark in the margin. If you’re amused, put an LOL. If you’re shocked, put an exclamation point!
- Underline words you don’t know and jot a short definition in the margin.
- Note in the margins if a passage/moment reminds you of something else You’ve read/seen/heard. Simply use a similar sign (two squiggles) from geometry and write a title, author, character – whatever. (For example, *East of Eden* has many parallels to the book of Genesis.)
- For novels/plays, go back to the beginning of a chapter/scene and jot a short note about what happened in that chapter -- 2-3 lines tops. Some authors (Mark Twain, Cervantes) do a bit of this for you, but sometimes they are vague, and making your own summary will help you reflect and retain.
- Stop every page or so and jot a BRIEF (2-8 words usually) summary of what is going on, in general trying not to let too many pages go by with no marks from you.

*The Stonehaven School exists to glorify God by cultivating truth, goodness, and beauty in students through a distinctly Christ-centered classical education.*



Considerations for third summer reading book:

**Fiction**

*Emma* by Jane Austen  
*Persuasion* by Jane Austen  
*Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen  
*Nathan Coulter* by Wendell Berry  
*Hannah Coulter* by Wendell Berry  
*Godric* by Frederick Buechner  
*In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote  
*The Man Who Was Thursday* by G.K. Chesterton  
*The Awakening* by Kate Chopin  
*Bleak House* by Charles Dickens  
*Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens  
*The Mill on the Floss* by George Eliot  
*Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger  
*The Unvanquished* by William Faulkner  
*Tess of the D'Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy  
*Jude the Obscure* by Thomas Hardy  
*Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley  
*Moses, Man on the Mountain* by Zora Neale Hurston  
*A Separate Peace* by John Knowles  
*Out of the Silent Planet* by C.S. Lewis  
*Perelandra* by C.S. Lewis  
*All the Pretty Horses* by Cormac McCarthy  
*The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter* by Carson McCullers  
*Wise Blood* by Flannery O'Connor  
*Pudd'nhead Wilson* by Mark Twain  
*The Moviegoer* by Walker Percy  
*The Chosen* by Chaim Potok  
*The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde  
*The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde  
*The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams  
*The House of Mirth* by Edith Wharton

**Nonfiction**

*Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand  
*The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson  
*In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson  
*Brave Companions* by David McCullough  
*Mornings on Horseback* by David McCullough  
*River of Doubt* by Candice Millard  
*In the Heart of the Sea* by Nathaniel Philbrick