

Brookewood School
Summer Listening, Reading, and Poetry List 2024



Summer Listening

Lower School:

Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*

Middle School:

Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9 in D minor Opus 125, 4th movement*

Upper School:

Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No. 2 in C Minor*

Summer Reading and Poems for Recitation

Kindergarten

Reading:

Now One Foot, Now the Other by Tomie dePaola

Poem to memorize:

"Mice" by Rose Fyleman

Grade 1

Reading:

The Duchess Bakes a Cake by Virginia Kahl

Miss Rumphius by Barbara Clooney

Miss Nelson Is Missing by Harry Allard and James Marshall

Poem to memorize:

"Clouds" by Christina Rossetti

Grade 2

Reading:

Amelia Bedelia by Peggy Parish

Nate the Great by Majorie Weinman Sharmat

The Mouse and the Motorcycle by Beverly Cleary

Poem to memorize:

"Trees" by Joyce Kilmer

Grade 3

Reading:

Little House in the Big Woods by Laura Ingalls Wilder

The Good Master by Kate Seredy

Babe, The Gallant Pig by Dick King-Smith

Poem to memorize:

"Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" by Robert Frost

Grade 4

Reading:

The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis

Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell

Poem to memorize:

"My Shadow" by Robert Louis Stevenson

Grade 5

Reading:

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes

Poem to memorize:

"Silver" by Walter de la Mare

Grade 6

Reading:

Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Patterson

Poem to memorize:

"I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" by William Wordsworth

Grade 7

Reading:

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate by Jacqueline Kelly
Bloomability by Sharon Creech

Poem to memorize:

“The Jabberwocky” by Lewis Carroll

Grade 8

Reading:

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
Hattie Big Sky by Kirby Larson

Poem to memorize:

“The Gift Outright” by Robert Frost

Grade 9

Reading: Upper School Summer Reading Groups, as assigned (see below)

Poem to memorize:

“On First Looking Into Chapman’s Homer” by John Keats

Grade 10

Reading: Upper School Summer Reading Groups, as assigned (see below)

Piece to memorize: excerpt from *Henry V* by William Shakespeare:

This day is called the feast of Crispian:
He that outlives this day, and comes safe home,
Will stand a tip-toe when the day is named,
And rouse him at the name of Crispian.
He that shall live this day, and see old age,
Will yearly on the vigil feast his neighbours,
And say 'To-morrow is Saint Crispian.'
Then will he strip his sleeve and show his scars.
And say 'These wounds I had on Crispin's day.'
Old men forget: yet all shall be forgot,
But he'll remember with advantages
What feats he did that day: then shall our names
Familiar in his mouth as household words
Harry the king, Bedford and Exeter,
Warwick and Talbot, Salisbury and Gloucester,

Be in their flowing cups freshly remember'd.
This story shall the good man teach his son;
And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by,
From this day to the ending of the world,
But we in it shall be remember'd;
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;
For he to-day that sheds his blood with me
Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile,
This day shall gentle his condition:
And gentlemen in England now a-bed
Shall think themselves accursed they were not here,
And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks
That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day.

Grade 11:
AP English Language

1. Reading: Upper School Reading Groups, as assigned (see below)
2. *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald (book and study questions available from Mrs. Walsh)
3. Poem to memorize: "One Art" by Elizabeth Bishop

OR

Grade 11:
English III

1. Reading: Upper School Reading Groups, as assigned (see below)
2. Poem to memorize: "O Me! O Life!" by Walt Whitman

Grade 12:
AP English Literature and Composition

1. Reading: Upper School Reading Groups, as assigned (see below)
2. *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky, trans. Oliver Ready (book available from Mrs. Walsh)
3. Draft of College Essay (see below for prompts)
4. Poem to memorize: Excerpt from the "Little Gidding" section of *The Four Quartets* by T.S. Eliot:

With the drawing of this Love and the voice of this Calling

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.
Through the unknown, remembered gate
When the last of earth left to discover

Is that which was the beginning;
At the source of the longest river
The voice of the hidden waterfall
And the children in the apple-tree
Not known, because not looked for
But heard, half-heard, in the stillness
Between two waves of the sea.
Quick now, here, now, always--
A condition of complete simplicity
(Costing not less than everything)
And all shall be well and
All manner of thing shall be well
When the tongues of flames are in-folded
Into the crowned knot of fire
And the fire and the rose are one.

OR

Grade 12:
English IV

1. Upper School Summer Reading Groups (see below)
2. Draft of College Essay (see below for prompts)
3. Poem to memorize: “The Splendor Falls” by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

The 2024–25 Common Application Essay Prompts:

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?

7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

Upper School Summer Reading Group Selections (Students have selected their groups through Mrs. Walsh; please contact her if you don't have a group or have questions: cwalsh@brookewood.org). These groups change each year, and a student may choose which group she wishes to join. The groups meet in September; an assessment at the first meeting is an English grade in the first quarter.

These selections vary from year to year and are offered by teachers from across the grades and disciplines.

_____ Group 1

Les Pensées by Blaise Pascal
Meditations by Marcus Aurelius

This summer reading project will include two famous collections of wisdom, *The Meditations* of Marcus Aurelius and *Les Pensées* by Blaise Pascal. Students will read both collections and select their favorite three passages from each work. These selections will be the pivot point of our seminar discussions.

Here are some examples (please don't choose these):

"If it is not right to do it, do not do it; if it is not true, do not say it." —Marcus Aurelius
"Men never do evil so completely and cheerfully as when they do it from religious conviction."—
Blaise Pascal

_____ Group 2

The Inimitable Jeeves (P.G. Wodehouse)
The Importance of Being Earnest (Oscar Wilde)

Explore humor and satire as literary devices that convey meaning as much as they entertain. Observe and enjoy the impact of word play in storytelling, and learn how writers teach lessons about society.

_____Group 3

My Antonia by Willa Cather

Death Comes for the Archbishop by Willa Cather

These two books of the American West begin with newcomers to the landscape experiencing the beauty and power of nature. Both proceed episodically, following their characters across time and in varied interactions that show the roles of community, friendship, suffering, spirituality, dignity, and mortality. Cather's luminous, imagistic writing and simplicity of style allow for novels that show memorable pictures giving way ultimately to moments of transcendence.

_____Group 4

The Lord of the Rings by JRR Tolkien (*The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Two Towers*, and *The Return of the King*)

Tolkien's great fantasy novel tells of a group of unlikely heroes who are tasked with playing a small role in the fight against a menacing foe seeking to plunge the world into darkness. Throughout the tale Tolkien explores questions of Providence, the problem of evil, attachment, loss, responsibility, and love.

_____Group 5

Too Small a World, The Life of Mother Frances Cabrini by Theodore Maynard

Stronger than Steel: Soldiers of the Great War Write to Thérèse of Lisieux by Les Poilus et al.

Too Small a World, The Life of Mother Frances Cabrini by Theodore Maynard

"If anybody could effect the impossible, it was this Italian nun," writes Theodore Maynard.

Maynard's delightful and compelling biography chronicles the astounding life of the missionary sister Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850–1917) who defied all odds to become America's first canonized saint. Follow her adventures as she crosses oceans, continents and even mountain ranges (on mule back!) convincing popes, presidents and potentates to lend a hand in bringing the love of Jesus to the poor, the outcast and the lonely in a world which proved to be too small for her compassionate heart.

Stronger than Steel: Soldiers of the Great War Write to Thérèse of Lisieux by Les Poilus et al.

Around the same time, at the tender age of fifteen, Thérèse Martin entered the Carmelite cloister in Lisieux, France. She, too, desired to be a missionary, but her poor health prevented it and by age 24 she was dead of tuberculosis. Even though she never set foot outside the convent

again, Thérèse was named co-patroness of missionaries along with St. Frances Cabrini because of her great zeal and ardent desire for souls. Believing that her life for God was really just beginning, St. Thérèse of Lisieux (1873–1897) promised to spend her days in heaven doing good on earth. By the beginning of World War I, Thérèse’s fame had spread and many soldiers carried prayer cards, medals and relics of the saint into battle. *Stronger than Steel* is a moving collection of short letters from soldiers which testify that prayers to St. Thérèse do not go unanswered. The letters recount how *la petite Thérèse* miraculously appeared to them, protected them from danger, healed them when doctors despaired, and encouraged them in the trials of battle.

_____Group 6

All But My Life by Gerda Weissmann Klein

Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust by Immaculee Ilibagiza

Searching For and Maintaining Peace: A Small Treatise on Peace of Heart by Jacques Philippe

Reading these dramatic memoirs of women who endured holocausts while searching for and maintaining peace will inspire us to embrace peace in our own lives. Jacques Philippe provides a profound guide to aid this daily struggle. Together they are voices of hope.

_____Group 7 is reserved for rising 9th and 10th grade only

My Family and Other Animals by Gerald Durrell

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

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Depicting early 20th Century Williamsburg, Brooklyn, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* is the poignant story of Francie Nolan, a girl beset by poverty and family tragedy, and her indelible desire for education and ultimately for beauty.

My Family and Other Animals by Gerald Durrell

Chronicling his family's years on the island of Corfu before World War II, the highly observant ten-year-old Gerry is wildly amused by the (sometimes fictional) adventures of his mother and siblings and endlessly fascinated by the flora and fauna of the sun-drenched island.