

## *The Required Reading List*

To High School Parents:

As you may have heard, we have a required reading list for JCS high school students. Please take a moment to get familiar with how the system works.

We require the equivalent of two books for each year a student is at JCS. As at least one book on the reading list is done in literature classes each year, students need only complete independently one other book for each year they will spend in Jackson Christian High School before graduation. Refer to the back for the list and requirements to complete a book. Also, the Accelerated Reader tests for these books will also count toward the student's AR point requirements in freshmen, sophomore, and junior English, regardless of the student's reading range. A student must complete at least two books each year, one each semester. Failure to complete a book in a semester will mean withholding of a student's report card until it is completed.

We desire this requirement to give every graduate of JCHS a background in some of the most important ideas in Western civilization, exposure to some of the most important writers, and a deeper look at some of the events in history. It is part of our continuing effort to raise the standard of excellence. Many academically rigorous high schools have such requirements. After all, students grow only to the extent they are challenged.

The books on the list, as one would expect, are not light and fluffy reading; they are substantial. Your student may need your help and guidance for understanding, just as they might with a difficult section in algebra or geometry. Some of the books contain ideas contrary to our own Christian worldview, but we think the students are being equipped to examine and weigh these ideas in their Bible, history, and literature classes, and we hope in their homes and churches as well. We recommend that a student read a book over the summer, write the report, and take the AR test as soon as school begins in August.

Thank you for your support and understanding of the required reading list. We want to build adults who will be well equipped to influence their world for Christ. Please call if you have any questions.

The JCHS English Department

## *Required Reading List*

Students shall read eight of the following books as part of their required course work for English credits, beginning as freshmen. Students entering Jackson Christian Schools in later grades will be required to do two for every year they are in the school. Students will do one per semester, or receive an *Incomplete* for the English credit until the work is done. Note that some of the books are part of the regular literature curriculum and will be done in the course of normal school work.

To validate the reading of the books, students shall pass the Accelerated Reader test on the book with at least a 60%, and turn in a two-page book report (page and a half typed, double spaced, one inch margins) to their current English teacher. The book report must receive at least an eighty percent as graded on the standard book report form. The English department makes available to students a written explanation of how the books should be done; it is available in school and on the school's website. A list of the books will be kept in each student's file for teachers to mark off the date when each book is satisfactorily completed.

The reading list is as follows:

*Brave New World*, Aldous Huxley  
*Brothers Karamazov*, Dostoevski  
*Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain  
*Knowing God*, J. I. Packer  
*Lord of the Flies*, Willam Golding (11th Grade)  
*Macbeth*, William Shakespeare (12th Grade)  
*Romeo and Juliet*, William Shakespeare (9th Grade)  
*Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis  
*The Origin of Species*, Charles Darwin  
*Pilgrim's Progress*, John Bunyan  
*Pride and Prejudice*, Jane Austen  
*The Prince*, Machiavellia  
*The Scarlet Letter*, Nathaniel Hawthorne  
*A Tale of Two Cities*, Charles Dickens  
*To Kill a Mockingbird*, Lee (10th Grade)  
*Undaunted Courage*, Stephen Ambrose  
*The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt*, Edmund Morris  
*John Adams*, David McCullough  
*All's Quiet on the Western Front*, E. R. Remarque  
*Animal Farm*, George Orwell  
*Jane Eyre*, Charlotte Bronte  
*The Odyssey*, Homer  
*The Old Man and the Sea*, Ernest Hemingway  
*Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Harriet Beecher Stowe  
*20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, Jules Verne  
*Robinson Crusoe*, Daniel Defoe  
*Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury  
*The Longest Day*, Cornelius Ryan  
*1984*, George Orwell  
*Great Expectations*, Charles Dickens  
*Up from Slavery*, Booker T. Washington  
*The Fellowship of the Ring*, J. R. R. Tolkien  
*Call of the Wild*, Jack London