

CANTON ACADEMY
2025-26 Summer Reading

Reading over the summer is important. It helps students retain and enhance their reading abilities. In addition, when students read as a leisure activity, it promotes reading comprehension, vocabulary, and reading speed. These components are essential in improving ACT scores.

Keeping these ideas in mind, students in grades 6-12 are required to read **ONE** book over the summer. This book will be tested on in English classes on **Friday, August 8, 2025**.

Students who transfer to Canton Academy before July 18th will be expected to participate in summer reading and read the required book. Students who transfer to Canton Academy after July 18th will have until September 2nd to read the required book and take the test.

Required Book to be tested on the first week of school:

6th: *96 Miles* by J.L. Esplin

The Lockwood brothers are supposed to be able to survive anything. Their dad, a hardcore believer in self-reliance, has stockpiled enough food and water at their isolated Nevada home to last for months. But when they are robbed of all their supplies during a massive blackout while their dad is out of town, John and Stew must walk 96 miles in the stark desert sun to get help. Along the way, they're forced to question their dad's insistence on self-reliance and ask just what it is that we owe to our neighbors, to our kin, and to ourselves.

7th: *Good Old Boy* by Willie Morris

This is a novel about a boy's adventures growing up in post-WWII Mississippi. Author Willie Morris wrote *Good Old Boy* when his son David, age ten, asked, "What was it like to grow up in Mississippi?" Morris's response turned into a timeless story of growing up in Yazoo City, Mississippi, in the early 1950s, roaming the town with his friends and playing practical jokes and having adventures.

8th: *The Pigman* by Paul Zindel

When high school sophomores John and Lorraine made a prank phone call to an elderly stranger named Angelo Pignati, what starts as a practical joke quickly turns into a friendship that changes all of their lives forever. But when their friendship ends in tragedy, the only way for John and Lorraine to find peace is to write down their friend's story—the true story of the Pigman.

9th General: *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London

Buck is a big-hearted dog whose blissful domestic life gets turned upside down when he is suddenly uprooted from his California home and transplanted to the exotic wilds of the Alaskan Yukon in the 1890s. As the newest rookie on a mail-delivery dog sled team, Buck experiences the adventure of a lifetime as he ultimately finds his true place in the world.

9th Honors*: *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane - Ballard Classics Edition

This is the story of Henry Fleming, a teenager who enlists with the Union Army in the hopes of fulfilling his dreams of glory. Shortly after enlisting, the reality of his decision sets in. He experiences tedious waiting, not immediate glory.

10th General: *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck

The Pearl is a parable about a Mexican Indian pearl diver named Kino who finds a valuable pearl and is transformed by the evil it attracts. Kino sees the pearl as his opportunity for a better life. When the townsfolk of La Paz learn of Kino's find, he is immediately set upon by a greedy priest, a doctor, and businessmen.

10th Honors*: *A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway

A Farewell to Arms is a novel by American writer Ernest Hemingway, set during the Italian campaign of World War I. First published in 1929, it is a first-person account of an American, Frederic Henry, serving as a lieutenant in the ambulance corps of the Italian Army.

11th General: *1984* by George Orwell

This novel is a haunting prophesy of the future, which has held multiple generations of readers spellbound in its chilling and terrifying vision of life under a totalitarian regime. Powerful and unforgettable, this still-relevant novel explores the obliteration of truth, individuality, and liberty in a world where the ruling power seeks to control everything, from information to thought and memory.

11th Honors*: *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

This is the story of gifted scientist Victor Frankenstein who succeeds in giving life to a being of his own creation. However, this is not the perfect specimen he imagines that it will be, but rather a hideous creature who is rejected by Victor and mankind in general.

12th General: *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

Liesel Meminger's brother dies, and her mother is forced to send her to a foster home to avoid Nazi persecution. Liesel is the official book thief; fascinated by the power of words, she steals several books throughout the story from a gravedigger, a bonfire, and the mayor's wife, Ilsa Hermann.

12th Dual Credit Course: *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

Liesel Meminger's brother dies, and her mother is forced to send her to a foster home to avoid Nazi Persecution. Liesel is the official book thief; fascinated by the power of words; she steals several books Throughout the story from a gravedigger, a bonfire, and the mayor's wife, Ilsa Hermann.

***To Qualify for English Honors:**

9th Grade Honors: Students with a 90 or above average for 08 English in the 2024-2025 school year will be considered 9th Honors.

10th Grade Honors: Students with an 88 or above average for English I in the 2024-2025 school year will be considered 10th Honors.

11th Grade Honors: Students with an 85 or above average in English II for the 2024-2025 school year will be considered 11th Honors.

