

CANTON ACADEMY
2026-27 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 7-12 are required to read **ONE** book over the summer. This book will be tested on in English classes on **Monday, August 10, 2026**.

Students who transfer to Canton Academy before July 24th will be expected to participate in summer reading and read the required book. Students who transfer to Canton Academy after July 24th will have until September 8th to read the required book and take the test during the make-up testing session before school.

Required Book to be tested on Monday, August 10:

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*: *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

Fahrenheit 451 depicts a future where books are outlawed and "firemen" burn them. The story follows Guy Montag, a fireman who begins to question his society and starts secretly collecting books. The title refers to the temperature at which paper ignites, symbolizing the destruction of knowledge and critical thought.

***9th Grade Honors:** Students with a final average of 90 or above for 08 English for the 2025-2026 school year will be considered 9th Honors.

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 Separate Peace* by John Knowles

A Separate Peace is a classic novel set at a New England prep school during World War II, that explores the complex friendship between the introverted Gene Forrester and the charismatic athlete Phineas (Finny). The story, narrated by an older Gene looking back, details their intense rivalry, a tragic accident that cripples Finny, and the loss of innocence that mirrors the nation's experience of the war, symbolizing the internal and external conflicts of adolescence.

***10th Grade Honors:** Students with a final average of 90 or above for English I for the 2025-2026 school year will be considered 10th Honors.

11th Grade (All): *1984* by George Orwell

This novel is a haunting prophecy 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.

12th General AND 12th Dual Enrollment 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.