

Successful students don't take a vacation from learning!

## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List and Activities

### Step 1: Pick one of the following books to read this summer!

- ***My father, the Angel of Death*** by Ray Villareal. The Angel of Death, the American Championship Wrestling Heavyweight Champion, is one of the most popular wrestlers on Monday Night Mayhem. He is also Mark Baron, Jesse Baron's father. As Jesse negotiates the usual school problems from bullies to first love, he can't help but wonder what life would be like if his father weren't so famous.
- ***A Long Way Gone*** by Ishmael Beah. Until now, there has not been a first-person account from someone who came through this hell and survived. Ishmael Beah, now 25 years old, tells how at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts.
- ***Slam*** by Nick Hornby. When fifteen-year old skateboarder Sam "Slam" Jones learns that his ex-girlfriend is pregnant, he turns to the only person he feels can help—his hero, skating legend Tony Hawk. Since Tony is only a poster, he doesn't offer answers, so it's up to Sam, thrust suddenly into maturity, to figure out the right thing to do.
- ***Tears of a Tiger*** by Sharon Draper. A high school basketball star struggles with guilt and depression following the drunk-driving accident that killed his best friend. The story is artfully told through English class assignments, including poetry; dialogues; police and newspaper reports; and letters. This moving novel will leave a deep impression.
- ***La Linea*** by Ann Jaramillo. Six years ago, Miguel and Elena's mother and father left Mexico and crossed *la línea* into California. On the morning of Miguel's 15th birthday, he receives a note from his father telling him that it is time for him to join them. Miguel is sad to leave his grandmother and sister behind, but is excited about being reunited with his parents. Unbeknownst to Miguel, Elena, 13, disguises herself and joins him on the difficult journey. They are robbed, threatened, and almost perish in a desperate trek across the desert.
- ***The Graveyard Book*** by Neil Gaiman. In *The Graveyard Book*, Neil Gaiman has created a charming allegory of childhood. Quickly recognizing that a baby is orphaned, the graveyard's ghostly residents adopt him, name him Nobody ("Bod"), and allow him to live in their tomb. Taking inspiration from Kipling's *The Jungle Book*, Gaiman describes how the toddler navigates among the headstones, asking a lot of questions and picking up the tricks of the living and the dead. In serial-like episodes, the story follows Bod's progress as he grows from baby to teen.
- ***Speak*** by Laurie Anderson. Calling the police to a party is a tough choice, but what made Melinda call is the devastating secret that keeps her locked in silence.
- ***Living Up the Street*** by Gary Soto. A collection of short prose pieces by the author of *A Summer Life* describes the author's boyhood growing up in the barrio in the 1950s and 1960s, his experience on the Little League team, and his parochial school life.

### Step 2: Purchase the book!

If you want to get a good deal on the book, the following websites sell cheap, used books:

[www.bookcloseouts.com](http://www.bookcloseouts.com)  
[www.half.ebay.com](http://www.half.ebay.com)

[www.rereadables.com](http://www.rereadables.com)  
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You may, of course, checkout the book from the library. However, you are strongly encouraged to buy the book so that you can write and highlight in it.

### Step 3: Read the book! Tips for Effective Reading:

1. Set realistic time goals and number of pages to be read.
2. Take breaks when you feel unable to stay with the material due to daydreaming, drowsiness, boredom, hunger, etc.
3. Read with a pen or highlighter in hand and mark/highlight only the essential words and phrases.
4. Look up words you do not understand.
5. Try to visualize what you have just read.
6. Make separate notes or outlines of what you have read.

### Step 4: Complete a Project!

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## 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List and Activities

### Step 1: Pick one of the following books to read this summer!

- ***The Alchemist*** by Paulo Coelho. This inspirational fable has been a runaway bestseller. The charming tale of Santiago, a shepherd boy, who dreams of seeing the world. He journeys from Spain to Morocco in search of worldly success, and eventually to Egypt, where a fateful encounter with an alchemist brings him at last to self-understanding and spiritual enlightenment.
- ***A Thousand Splendid Suns*** by Khaled Hosseini. Hosseini takes us through forty some years of Afghanistan's bloody history. While he does not spare us any of the descriptions of the terror that continues to besiege that country, he does offer us a story that speaks so tenderly about the lasting impression people make on people. The story follows two women in their hopeless struggle to have a decent life in an unforgiving, intolerant society."
- ***Always Running*** by Luis J. Rodriguez wrote this book for his son. It is a memoir of his youth as a member of a street gang in Los Angeles, which has been highly acclaimed for its description of the lives of desperate, impoverished individuals in big cities. Be warned: this memoir contains vulgar language.
- ***Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers*** by Mary Roach. Both funny and gruesome, this book follows the amazing life-after-death adventures of human bodies and examines how medical and research scientists use cadavers to make our lives better.
- ***House of the Scorpion*** by Nancy Farmer. This is the empire of Matteo Alacran, a feudal drug lord in the country of Opium, which lies between the United States and Aztlan, formerly Mexico. Alacran, or El Patron, has lived 140 years with the help of transplants from a series of clones, a common practice among rich men in this world. The intelligence of clones is usually destroyed at birth, but Matt, the latest of Alacran's doubles, has been spared because he belongs to El Patron. Gradually, he realizes the fate that is in store for him, and with the help of Tam Lin, he escapes to Aztlan.
- ***Feed*** by M.T. Anderson. Spending time partying on the moon and riding around in his "upcar," Titus is an average teen of the future, complete with a computer chip implant—the "Feed"—that lets corporate marketers and government agencies broadcast directly into his brain. Then Titus meets Violet, and an anti-Feed hacker shuts down their Feeds for a short time; but when Violet's Feed is seriously damaged, she begins spouting some radical ideas.
- ***Three Cups of Tea*** by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. Some failures lead to phenomenal successes, and this American nurse's unsuccessful attempt to climb K2, the world's second tallest mountain, is one of them. Dangerously ill when he finished his climb in 1993, Mortenson was sheltered for seven weeks by the small Pakistani village of Korphe; in return, he promised to build the impoverished town's first school, a project that grew into the Central Asia Institute, which has since constructed more than 50 schools across rural Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- ***Tipping Point*** by Malcolm Gladwell. The best way to understand the dramatic transformation of unknown books into bestsellers, or the rise of teenage smoking, or the phenomena of word of mouth or any number of the other mysterious changes that mark everyday life," writes Malcolm Gladwell, "is to think of them as epidemics. Ideas and products and messages and behaviors spread just like viruses do." Although anyone familiar with the theory of memetics will recognize this concept, Gladwell's *The Tipping Point* has quite a few interesting twists on the subject.
- ***Nine Hills to Nambonkaha: Two Years in the Heart of an African Village*** by Sarah Erdman. Erdman, who now works for the Peace Corps in Washington, D.C., spent two years in Nambonkaha, a northern Ivory Coast village, starting in 1998. As a culturally sensitive community development volunteer, she took her time finding her niche. Erdman focuses on the story behind the story: how she learned local ways, how she gained the confidence and friendship of assorted villagers and even how she couldn't do anything about some atrocities, like female genital mutilation.

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## 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List and Activities

**\*\*SENIORS, please note: in addition to reading a selection from this summer reading list, you must also purchase and read, The Giver, by Lois Lowry. You do not have to complete a summer project for The Giver, but you must have it read for your 12<sup>th</sup> grade religion course.**

### Step 1: Pick one of the following books to read this summer!

- ***A Lesson Before Dying*** by Ernest J. Gaines. In a small Cajun community in 1940s Louisiana, a young black man is about to go to the electric chair for murder. A white shopkeeper had died during a robbery gone bad; though the young man on trial had not been armed and had not pulled the trigger, in that time and place, there could be no doubt of the verdict or the penalty.
- ***Life of Pi*** by Yann Martel. *Life of Pi* is a magical reading experience. The precocious son of a zookeeper, 16-year-old Pi Patel is raised in Pondicherry, India. Planning a move to Canada, his father packs up the family and they hitch a ride on an enormous freighter. After a harrowing shipwreck, Pi finds himself adrift in the Pacific Ocean, trapped on a 26-foot lifeboat with a wounded zebra, a spotted hyena, a seasick orangutan, and a 450-pound Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. In rich passages, Pi recounts the harrowing journey.
- ***Dreams from My Father*** by Barack Obama. Elected the first black president of the Harvard Law Review, Obama was offered a book contract, but the intellectual journey he planned to recount became instead this poignant, probing memoir of an unusual life.
- ***Tattoos on the Heart*** by Fr. Greg Boyle, SJ. Father Greg (affectionately known as G-dog), pastor of Delores Mission in Boyle Heights since 1986, has made it his mission to help at-risk youth. His remedy for what he calls "a global sense of failure" is radical and simple: boundless and restorative love. This book, filled with sparkling humor and generosity, gives a window on gangs in the context of spirituality.
- ***The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*** by Junot Diaz. Oscar is a 300-pound-plus "lovesick ghetto nerd" with zero game (except for Dungeons & Dragons) who cranks out pages of fantasy fiction with the hopes of becoming a Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien. The book is also the story of a multi-generational family curse that courses through the book, leaving troubles and tragedy in its wake. The rope-a-dope narrative is funny, hip, tragic, soulful, and bursting with desire.
- ***Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*** by Jared Diamond. Diamond is a professor of geography and physiology at UCLA and a graduate of The Roxbury Latin School. The book is not merely an account of the past; it attempts to explain why Eurasian civilizations, as a whole, have survived and conquered others.
- ***Neverwhere*** by Neil Gaiman. *Neverwhere's* protagonist, Richard Mayhew, learns the hard way that no good deed goes unpunished. He ceases to exist in the ordinary world of London Above, and joins a quest through the dark and dangerous London Below, a shadow city of lost and forgotten people, places, and times. His companions are Door, who is trying to find out who hired the assassins who murdered her family and why; the Marquis of Carabas, a trickster who trades services for very big favors; and Hunter, a mysterious lady who guards bodies and hunts only the biggest game. London Below is a wonderfully realized shadow world, and the story plunges through it like an express passing local stations, with plenty of action and a satisfying conclusion.
- ***Military Intelligence Blunders and Coverups*** by Colonel John Hughes-Wilson. The events of 9/11 and the war on terrorism and the daily crises in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict-behind them lie some of the most shocking failures and misuse of military intelligence in history. In this updated edition of Colonel Hughes-Wilson's controversial book, the long-serving professional military intelligence officer explores and exposes the often disastrous misunderstanding and mishandling of crucial intelligence by politicians and seasoned generals in recent times.

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## Option 1: Film and Post a YouTube Video of Your Book



If you choose this option, you will film and post key scenes from your selected summer reading book. Use the checklist below to help you successfully complete this assignment:

\_\_\_\_\_ **1. Write the Script.** After reading the book, make a list of the book's most important events. From the list begin to write a script. Since your movie is to be about 5 minutes long, your script should be about 5 pages (typed). The script should contain dialogue, character directions and scene descriptions. Below is an brief excerpt from a sample script, *Lord of the Flies*:

### **Scene 5: Jack's Fort, Nighttime**

Ralph slowly creeps over the ridge and sees Sam 'n Eric sitting by a fire. Sam 'n Eric are sleepy and exhausted. Ralph positions himself to the right of them and crouches down low.

Ralph  
(whispering)  
Samneric, It's me Ralph!

They both look up, startled

Sam 'n Eric  
You got to go, Ralph. You go away now.  
The Chief and Roger, they hate you, Ralph!

\_\_\_\_\_ **2. Shoot the Film.** Make a movie using a digital camera, web cam, or cell phone. An old VHS will only work if you transfer it to a digital file—you'll need a digital converter to plug an older camcorder into the computer. You can upload a YouTube movie directly from a phone if you set up a Mobile Profile in YouTube. With a high speed connection, it should generally take a few minutes, give or take.

\_\_\_\_\_ **3. Edit Your Movie.** Programs such as Mac's iMovie or Windows' MovieMaker are both good—add titles, effects, cut out a bad takes, etc. Resize the video so it looks best in YouTube. The site accepts QuickTime .MOV, Windows .AVI, or .MPG files at 340x240 resolution. There's a 100MB size and 10 minute length limit.

\_\_\_\_\_ **4. Create a YouTube Account or Burn movie onto a DVD.** Click on Upload Videos in the upper right corner of the home page. Create a title, description, tags, category, and set language.

\_\_\_\_\_ **5. Check the Rubric.** Make sure that your project is complete and follows the rubric!

\_\_\_\_\_ **6. Be Ready to Present.** You will sign up to present your video during the first week of school!

## Option 2: Create and Burn a CD for Your Book



If you choose this option, you will make a CD of music for your selected summer reading book. Think of it as the book's soundtrack. Use the checklist below to help you successfully complete this assignment:

\_\_\_\_\_ **1. Pick the Songs.** After reading the book, make a list of the book's 10 most important events. From the list begin to think of songs that relate to what is happening during those events. Take into consideration the tone and the themes of the book. The songs you select can be about certain characters, situations or events from the book. Feel free to write and compose your own original music that relates to the book.

\_\_\_\_\_ **2. Burn a CD.** Using iTunes or MediaPlayer, create a playlist of your selected songs and burn the music tracks to a CD. After burning, check to make sure that the music was successfully burned to the CD.

\_\_\_\_\_ **3. Make an Album Cover and Booklet for Your CD.** Find a picture or create your own CD cover art for your book's CD. Inside the pages of your CD booklet, include the song title, the artist name, the reason why you chose the song (1 full paragraph), and the song lyrics. Use this example from *Romeo and Juliet* as a guide:

*Track 6  
Song: Hey there Delilah  
Artist: Plain White T's*

*I chose this song because it's about missing someone you love. When Romeo is banished from Verona, he is forced to separate from Juliet. He is in utter agony because he misses Juliet so much. I can imagine this song playing in the background as Romeo waits for a letter from Juliet. In the song the singer talks about the sadness of being apart from Delilah and how he can't wait for the future when they will be reunited. Romeo, too, can not wait until he gets to see Juliet again.*

*Hey there Delilah  
What's it like in New York City  
I'm a thousand miles away  
But girl tonight you look so pretty  
Yes you do  
Time Square cant shine as bright as you  
I swear it's true*

*Hey there Delilah  
Don't you worry about the distance  
I'm right there if you get lonely  
Give this song another listen  
Close your eyes  
Listen to my voice it's my disguise  
I'm by your side...*

\_\_\_\_\_ **4. Check the Rubric.** Make sure that your project is complete and follows the rubric!

\_\_\_\_\_ **5. Be Ready to Present.** You will sign up to present your CD booklet and a preview of your song tracks during the first week of school!

## Option 3: Draw a Storyboard or Comic Strip of Your Book



If you choose this option, you will make a storyboard or comic strip of your book. Think of how you might illustrate the book if you were hired as its illustrator. Use the checklist below to help you successfully complete this assignment:

\_\_\_\_\_ **1. Pick the Images.** After reading the book, make a list of the book's 16-20 most important events. From the list, begin to think of ways to visually depict those situations or events. Pay close attention to the descriptions that the author gives of characters and places, as your drawings must adequately represent the book. (see example below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **2. Draw and Color.** In chronological order, draw a storyboard or comic strip of your book's major events. You can use a large sheet of paper and divide it into 16-20 squares or you can use 16-20 sheets of paper and create a storyboard booklet.

\_\_\_\_\_ **3. Add Text to Each Square.** Each square of your storyboard should have a line of text from the book or a dialogue quote that relates to the images in the square. The text in every square should be cited with the correct page number.

\_\_\_\_\_ **4. Check the Rubric.** Make sure that your project is complete and follows the rubric!

\_\_\_\_\_ **5. Be Ready to Present.** You will sign up to present your storyboard or comic strip during the first week of school!

Example: From Sandra Cisneros' *House on Mango Street*

"I want to be like the waves on the sea, like the waves on the sea, like the clouds in the wind,  
but I'm me. One day I'll jump out of my skin. I'll shake the sky like a hundred violins"  
pgs.60-61

## Option 4: Create a Webpage or PowerPoint of Your Book or Your Favorite Character from Your Book



If you choose this option, you will create a webpage for your selected summer reading book. Use the checklist below to help you successfully complete this assignment:

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Create a Googlepages (or similar) Webpage/PowerPoint. DO NOT create a MySpace or Facebook page, as those sites are blocked on Verbum Dei's Server. After reading the book, make a list of the book's most important events, places, and people. If your book has characters, you may create a page/PowerPoint for a major character. Think about how you want to portray the book or character visually. Choose your color schemes and fonts wisely!

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Upload 5 Pictures onto Your Page/PowerPoint. Post pictures that are relevant to the story or character. Make sure that all pictures are appropriate. You can use pictures and images that you take yourself or that you find on the internet.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Include Music (if possible). Download and post to your page a song that is relevant to your book or character.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Write a Summary, Character Blog, and a Critique of the Book. In your own words, write a summary of the book, discussing the most relevant events. Then, write a personal 2-3 paragraph critique of the book, discussing the strengths and weaknesses of the book. Lastly, pick a character and write a blog (1-2 paragraphs) as that character.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Post 5 Quotes. Post quotes from the text that you think are the most important.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Check the Rubric. Make sure that your project is complete and follows the rubric!

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Be Ready to Present. You will sign up to present your page during the first week of school!

Good Luck, Happy Reading!

# Verbum Dei Summer Reading Assessment Rubric

*The summer reading project is worth 50 points in the projects/presentations category.*

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D-F</b>
<b>Content of the Project</b> (5 points each)	Completely fulfills the project's guidelines	Adequately fulfills the project's guidelines	Minimally fulfills the project's guidelines	Does not fulfill the project's guidelines
	Project is well-designed, creative, and appropriate to the content	Project is well-designed and appropriate to the content	Project is adequately designed and somewhat related to the content	Exhibited no sense of organization or relationship to the content area
	Covered the topic of the project with specific information	Covered the topic of the project with specific information	Omitted important information	Omitted much of the basic information
	Credited sources	Credited sources	Provided incomplete credit for sources	Neglected to provide credit for sources
<b>Visual Elements of the Project</b> (5 points each)	Product is creative, interesting, and easy to see and understand	Product is interesting and easy to see and understand	Product is somewhat interesting but difficult to see	Product is messy, disorganized, and difficult to see and understand
	Supported the purpose of the project	Supported the purpose of the project	Somewhat supported the purpose of the project	Product not related to the purpose of the project
	Fully communicated main ideas	Communicated main ideas	Minimally supported the main idea	Not related to the purpose of the project
	Exhibited outstanding effort	Exhibited excellent effort	Exhibited fair effort	Exhibited no effort
<b>Presentation</b> (10 points)	Presentation is well-prepared and thoroughly covers the project in 5-7 min. Speaker is well-spoken and loud enough.	Presentation is prepared and covers the project in 5-7 min. Speaker is well-spoken and loud enough.	Presentation is minimally prepared and covers most of the project. Speaker is somewhat well-spoken.	Presentation is not prepared, does not adequately cover the project and is poorly delivered.