

High school English students at River Oaks are required to read at least two books over the summer. Honors will read at least three. First, each grade has a required text, which will be used as the basis for a **diagnostic essay exam** when students return:

- ❖ 9th Grade – *To Kill A Mockingbird* (Lee)
- ❖ 10th Grade – *Hound of the Baskervilles* (Doyle)
- ❖ 11th Grade – *The Glass Menagerie* (Williams)
- ❖ 12th Grade – *This I Believe* (Allison and Gediman)

The additional books (*one* for non-honors and *two* for Honors/DE/AP) are chosen by the students, with the parents' approval. Students are required to write (and type) a report on each additional book, based on the format below:

Last Name #
Your Name
Your Teacher
Name of Course
Date (day month year)
Title of Book (centered)
The first line of each paragraph should be indented one tab space. The introduction for this paper should provide a "book-jacket" summary . Don't use someone else's work as your own; that's called plagiarism, and it earns you a zero. In your own words, write a 100-word synopsis of the key elements of the story.
The purpose of the second paragraph is to highlight an important quote from the novel. Begin by establishing the context for the quote; introduce the quote using a signal phrase (i.e. Lee states...), and follow the quote with a parenthetical citation (page number). Then, explain why the quote is important.
In the third paragraph, write a 100-word review of the novel. Rate the novel and explain why you do or do not recommend this book to your peers. Be specific when offering your praise and/or criticism. Feel free to compare the book to other books and films.

Of course, **ALL** students are encouraged to continue to read throughout the summer. There are several resources locally and online (such as the Ouachita Public Library) that have suggestions for a variety of reading levels and tastes. We hope you all have a great summer!

General Reading Lists

YALSA Booklists and Book Awards ~ <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/bookawards/booklists/members>

These lists, prepared by the Young Adult Library Services Association, target a variety of readers – from “Reluctant Readers” to “College Bound.” Most titles include one-two sentence summaries.

UC Berkeley ~ <http://reading.berkeley.edu/index.html>

Themed reading lists include recent topics “Social Media” and “Best Books About Science.” The 2014 theme is “Free Speech.” Titles include short summaries.

Award-Winning Contemporary Books

The Alex Awards ~ <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/alex-awards>

Since 1992, the annual list has included “ten books written for adults that have special appeal to young adults.”

The Pulitzer Prizes ~ <http://www.pulitzer.org/>

Columbia University recognizes “distinguished” works of American fiction, history, biography, poetry and drama.

National Book Awards ~ <http://www.nationalbook.org/>

“The National Book Foundation recognizes books of exceptional merit written by Americans.” Categories include fiction, nonfiction, poetry and young adult literature.

Powell Books “Award Winners” ~ <http://www.powells.com/awards>