

2025 Notre Summer Reading
Notre Dame - Bishop Gibbons
English Department
Tricia White * Karen Harp * John Verhayden

We are pleased to roll out our Summer Reading Experience 2025

At Notre Dame - Bishop Gibbons we work to help keep students on track with learning. Part of this is requiring summer reading. Following a study done in 2020, shared in the American Education Research Journal, 52% of students lost an average of 39% of their learning gains during the summer. This evaluation included 200 million test scores, in 7,500 school districts. With this data, we also realize that summer is also a time for kids to recharge - and just be kids. In looking at balancing this, we are requiring one book be read, (details follow below).

We encourage all students to read more than just the Summer Reading Experience book. Read a new author or, one you already like. Try a magazine, newspaper, or blog. Go to a bookstore and wander. Ask the staff for their favorites. Type a book you have liked into Amazon, and see what is suggested under "Frequently Bought Together", or "Customers Who Bought This Also Bought". Chances are you will find things you like to read. Fiction or nonfiction. It's all good reading!

PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FIND YOUR PACKET, THERE IS A LINK ON THE ND-BG WEBSITE FOR THE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND THE HIGH SCHOOL.

Middle School (grades 6 - 8)

Mrs. Harp (harpk@nd-bg.org)

The Assignment

Choose one of the books on the Reading List for either Middle School or High School based upon your grade level, and complete a dialectical journal which will be handed in the second full week of school in September. Directions for how to complete a dialectical journal follow, as well as the number of entries required.

High School

Mrs. White (tricia_white@nd-bg.org)

Mr. Verhayden (john_verhayden@nd-bg.org)

The Assignment

Choose one of the books on the Reading List for either Middle School or High School based upon your grade level, and complete a dialectical journal which will be handed in the second full week of school in September. Directions for how to complete a dialectical journal follow, as well as the number of entries required

Dialectical Journal

The purpose of a dialectical journal is to identify significant pieces of text and explain the significance. It is another form of highlighting/annotating text and should be used to think about, digest, summarize, question, clarify, critique, and remember what is read.

This is an excellent way to more fully understand a text.

Quote

Find a quote which you feel is significant. It can be significant to the story, or it may be a piece that is significant to you personally. The quote may also be a question which you have about a character, event, theme, etc.

Response

Each response should be 3 - 4 sentences.

Possible topics:

1. Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text.
2. Give your personal reactions to the passage.
3. Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author.
4. Tell what it reminds you of from your own experiences.
5. Write about what it makes you think or feel.

Example

(From Night by Elie Wiesel)

Quote

"Human suffering anywhere concerns men and women everywhere."

Response

This quote shows one of the themes of the book, which is the world being responsible for wrongs that are done to other people. If people do not stand up to what is wrong, the world will spin downward. This is like the idea that any behavior that isn't spoken against, is acceptable. For example, a teen drinking a lot and coming home and not having their parents speak to him or her about it could seem like it is accepted.

**Attached are reading lists for
Summer Reading Experience.
Pick a book
Enjoy**

