

2023 – 2024 READING LIST



A Reading List for Classical, Christian Students and Parents

At Arcadia Christian School, our desire is not only for students to learn how to read, but also to acquire a passion for reading. The literature lists were developed to encourage reading while also allowing for individual choice and preference. Our hope at ACS is that parents and children will come to know and love some of the best authors and literature that exist, and develop a lifelong love of reading!

Purpose

The literature lists were designed with specific objectives in mind.

- Give students guidance and direction as they choose books for independent reading and as they choose books for book reports. One book report is required each quarter by ACS in various grades.
- Help students, teachers, and parents make intelligent, wise decisions regarding what books students read, enabling them to learn to select books at the right reading level and of appropriate topic and content.
- Ensure that parents read more good literature themselves and with their children (e.g., reading aloud to children, discussing books that both parent and child read).
- Provide parents and teachers with a list of the books in order to help parents and teachers guide reading, suggest new books and avenues of study, cultivate interests and build new areas of interest.

How to Use the Literature List

When using the literature list for your student's grade level, keep the following features in mind.

- The books are listed in alphabetical order for convenience in finding specific titles.
- The number of books for each grade level list has been increased to provide more selection in topics and reading levels. Because of the expansive selection, choose books from the literature list at your student's grade level unless otherwise specified by the classroom teacher.
- Reading levels are provided (when available) to help assist parents, students, and teachers in selecting books. Keep in mind that the reading levels are approximate. Books at lower reading levels help students to develop speed in reading. A student should not neglect good literature just because the reading level is not advanced. In the same regard, advanced reading levels are not meant to be used by students or parents as a "bragging" point.

Reading levels are recorded as a decimal. To interpret the reading level, the number to the left of the decimal indicates a grade level. The number to the right of the decimal indicates the number of months into the school year. For instance, a reading level of 2.1 means second grade, first month. A reading level of 2.8 means second grade, the eighth month. Both reading levels are at a second-grade level; however, one is at an early second grade reading level whereas the other is at a late second grade reading level.

ARCADIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL READING LIST INTRODUCTION

School of Rhetoric (9th – 12th)

Ninth Grade Reading List

- Documents in American History
- The Federalist Papers (selections) 41-85
- Writings of Thomas Jefferson (selections)
- Lincoln-Douglas debates (selections)
- Apology, Plato
- *The Red Badge of Courage*, Crane
- *Walden; Civil Disobedience*, Thoreau
- *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Twain
- *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*, Douglass
- *My Ántonia*, Cather
- *The Old Man and the Sea*, Hemingway
- *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Lee
- *Our Town*, Wilder
- American poetry

Bible

- *The Screwtape Letters*, C.S Lewis
- *Genesis Bible Commentary*, Matthew Henry
- *The Case for Christ*, Lee Strobel

Tenth Grade Reading List

- Documents in European history
- *A Tale of Two Cities*, Dickens
- *A Man for All Seasons*, Bolt
- *Leviathan*, Hobbes (selections)
- *Essay on the Origin of Inequality*, Rousseau
- *Of Civil Government*, Locke
- *Pride and Prejudice*, Austen
- *Animal Farm*, Orwell
- British poetry
- *A Christian Manifesto*, Francis Schaeffer
- Shakespeare, William. [Othello](#)

Bible

Isaiah Bible Commentary, Matthew Henry

A Christian Manifesto, Francis Schaeffer

On the Incarnation, Athanasius

Eleventh Grade Reading List

- *Iliad; Odyssey*, Homer
- *Oresteia*, Aeschylus
- *Theban Plays*, Sophocles
- *Peloponnesian War*, Thucydides
- *Republic*, Plato
- *Nicomachean Ethics*, Aristotle
- *On the Incarnation*, Athanasius
- *The Confessions*, Augustine
- Bradbury, Ray. [Fahrenheit 451](#)

Bible

Acts Bible Commentary, Matthew Henry

How Should We Then Live?: The Rise and Decline of Western Thought and Culture
Francis Schaeffer (Sections)

Twelfth Grade Reading List

- *The Spirit and the Letter*, Augustine
- *Treatise on Law*, Aquinas
- *The Divine Comedy*, Dante
- *Macbeth; Hamlet*, Shakespeare
- *Meditations on First Philosophy*, Descartes
- *An Apology of Raymond Sebond*, Montaigne
- *The Social Contract*, Rousseau
- *On Civil Government*, Locke
- *Reason in History*, Hegel
- *On Liberty*, Mill
- *Parker's Back*, O'Connor
- *A Small, Good Thing*, Carver
- *The Palace Thief*, Canin

Bible

Romans Bible Commentary, Matthew Henry

Galatians Bible Commentary, Matthew Henry

How Should We Then Live?: The Rise and Decline of Western Thought and Culture
Francis Schaeffer (Sections)