

Community Reading:

1. **All students** must read *Same Kind of Different As Me* by Ron Hall and Denver Moore (978-0849919107), and be prepared for Harkness discussions on the first day of school. Students should prepare for Harkness discussion utilizing the following methods:
 - Maintain a dialectical journal as you read (see attached information).
 - Be prepared to discuss your reaction to the book, specific questions raised, Biblical connections, writing style, logic employed, ideas, etc.
 - Be prepared to address the key ideas raised by the authors in the book.
 - Prepare three discussion questions for consideration.
 - Students are strongly encouraged to participate in active reading – making notes in the text, highlighting, asking questions in the margins, looking up scriptures, summarizing each chapter, etc.

Students are required to bring the book and dialectical journal to class for the discussions.

2. **Additionally, all seniors must read** *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis (978-0060652920). This non-fiction selection is strongly encouraged for all students, but only required for the senior class. This text will be heavily utilized in Senior Thesis. For all others that choose to participate in reading this book, it will provide many connections to Logic, Rhetoric, Theology, Worldview, and most importantly, it will challenge readers to go deeper in their walk with Christ.

In addition to the above, students should read the appropriate book below and complete the corresponding assignment.

Ancient Literature (Grade 9): Students must read *Death Comes at the End* by Agatha Christie (ISBN: 978-0062074133). After reading, students must write a five paragraph essay analyzing Renisenb as the protagonist. Here is a site that gives the basics of character analysis:
<https://www.enotes.com/topics/how-write-character-analysis>. Students need to bring a printed copy of their essay on the first day of school.

Medieval Literature (Grade 10): Students will read J.R.R Tolkien's *The Return of the King* (ISBN: 978-0547928197). They will then watch the movie *The Return of the King* directed by Peter Jackson and write a five paragraph compare and contrast essay between the movie and the book. For guidance on how to write a compare and contrast essay please refer to:
http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/docs/handouts/Organization_CompareContrast.pdf Students need to bring a printed copy of their essay on the first day of school.

*Because the movie is rated PG-13 for violence we understand that this might not be an appropriate choice for all students. Please check commonsensemedia.org to make sure that this movie meets the standards of your family. If it does not, please contact me at lbirkofer@providencechristian.com or 615-424-0315 for an alternate essay assignment on *The Return of the King*.

Here is a brief synopsis of *The Fellowship of the Ring* and *The Two Towers*, the books preceding *The Return of the King*.

The future of civilization rests in the fate of the One Ring, which has been lost for centuries. Powerful forces are unrelenting in their search for it. But fate has placed it in the hands of a young Hobbit named Frodo Baggins, who inherits the Ring and steps into legend. A daunting task lies ahead for Frodo when he becomes the Ringbearer - to destroy the One Ring in the fires of Mount Doom where it was forged. He is joined on his journey by three loyal hobbit friends: Sam, Merry, and Pippen, a dwarf named Gimli, an elf named Legolas, and the mysterious ranger Aragorn. This fellowship is guided by the wise and good wizard Gandalf. They are in constant danger from the evil Lord Sauron who desires to obtain the ring and rule the world. In the previous two books, they have many dangers at the hands of Sauron's evil henchmen, most notably the dark wizard Saruman and armies of evil orcs under his control.

At the beginning of this book, Frodo and Sam have been separated from the rest of the fellowship and are making their way towards Mount Doom. Amongst other dangers, they must travel in the company of Gollum (the ring's previous owner who has been withered and driven mad by a lust to get it back) into the heart of Sauron's lair. Meanwhile, the rest of the fellowship must first battle to save the viking-esque land of Rohan and then to reclaim Aragon's kingdom Minas Tirith.

British Literature (Grade 11): Students must read *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley (ISBN: 978-1586171384). This text is also available free at www.gutenberg.org. Following the reading of *Frankenstein*, the students must write a five paragraph essay on the following topic: Hamartia refers to the fatal flaw of a character, one that is often their undoing. What was the hamartia of Dr. Victor Frankenstein? Provide specific examples from the text. Students need to bring a copy of their essay on the first day of school.

American Literature (Grade 12): Students must read *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald (ISBN: 978-0743273565). It has been said that the theme of the novel is “the withering of the American Dream.” After reading, the students must write a five paragraph essay explaining how the novel does or does not demonstrate the death of the American Dream. What does the novel offer about American identity? (Reference the characteristics of the American Dream within the body of your paper.) Students need to bring a copy of their essay on the first day of school.