

JPII Summer Reading List 2023-2024

As a college-prep school, JPII values year-round learning. Many classes have summer reading assignments to help students engage and prepare for their classes. All assignments are due the second time the class meets in September. Look below to find your courses and required books. See subsequent pages for assignments.

| Course Name | Required Book(s) | ISBN |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| English 9 | <i>The Hobbit</i> by Tolkien | 0-345-33968-1 |
| Honors English 9 | <i>The Hobbit</i> by Tolkien <i>Mr. Blue</i> by Connolly | 0-345-33968-1 978-1944418076 |
| Biology / Honors Biology | Choose One: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>A Short History of Nearly Everything</i> by Bryson <i>The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic</i> by Johnson | 978-0767908184 978-1-59448-269-4 |
| World Literature | <i>Oedipus the King</i> by Fagles | 978-0-14-044425-4 |
| Honors World Literature | <i>Oedipus the King</i> by Fagles AND Choose One: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Left to Tell</i> by Ilibagiza <i>First They Killed My Father</i> by Ung | 978-1401944322 978-0-06-085626-7 |
| Honors World History | <i>Bearing False Witness: Debunking Centuries of Anti-Catholic History</i> by Stark | 978-1-59947-536-3 |
| Chemistry / AP Chemistry | Chemistry Choose One AP Chemistry Choose Two: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Disappearing Spoon and Other True Tales of Madness, Love and the History of the World from the Periodic Table of the Elements</i> by Kean <i>The Poisoner's Handbook, Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York</i> by Blum <i>The Poison Squad: One Chemist's Single-minded Crusade for Food Safety at the Turn of the Twentieth Century</i> by Blum | 978-0-316-05163-7 978-0143118824 978-0-14-311112-2 |
| American Literature | <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> by Hurston | 978-0060838676 |
| Honors American Literature | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> by Hurston <i>Of Mice and Men</i> by Steinbeck | 978-0060838676 978-0140177398 |
| AP US History | Choose One: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Jungle</i> by Sinclair <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> by Stowe | 978-1-59308-118-8 978-1840224023 |
| Physics | <i>Signposts to God: How Modern Physics and Astronomy Point the Way to Belief</i> by Bussey | 978-0830851492 |
| Moral Theology & Social Justice | <i>Tattoos on the Heart</i> by Boyle | 978-1439153154 |
| English Literature & Composition | <i>Writing with Style: Conversations on the Art of Writing</i> by Trimble | 978-0205028801 |

Associated Assignments

The Hobbit

Answer each of these questions below in a well-developed paragraph (minimum of 5-10 sentences). Responses must be typed, double-spaced. Please write your answers without assistance from others. This writing activity will demonstrate how thoughtful you can be independently. Be sure to include quotes and paraphrases from the text in each response.

1. Compare Bilbo at the beginning of his journey with Bilbo at the end of his journey. What are the changes and what causes them? Would you call him a hero? Why or why not? What is the most valuable lesson learned?
2. When Bilbo took the Arkenstone to Thorin's enemies it seemed a dreadful betrayal to him. But before he dies Thorin has a change of heart and tells Bilbo, "I wish to part in friendship from you, and I would take back my words and deeds at the Gate." Why has Thorin changed? What has he learned from Bilbo?
3. Examine the ways in which the battle between good and evil or light and darkness is fought in *The Hobbit* and discuss what is communicated about human nature through this struggle.

Mr. Blue

Answer each of these questions below in a well-developed paragraph (minimum of 5-10 sentences). Responses must be typed, double-spaced. Please write your answers without assistance from others. This writing activity will demonstrate how thoughtful you can be independently. Be sure to include quotes and paraphrases from the text in each response.

1. Do some research on St. Francis. How does J. Blue compare? What are some significant contrasts?
2. Connolly could have chosen to have the story of Blue narrated by a fully supportive acquaintance or disciple. What is the effect of the voice of the skeptical narrator on you as a reader?
3. "Your failure is measured by your aspirations. Aspire not, and you cannot fail. Columbus died in chains. Joan of Arc was burned at the stake. Let us all live snugly -- and life will soon be little more than a thick, gelatinous stream of comfortability and ignorance." Explore Connolly's concept of heroism as a rejection of mediocrity. What is heroic about Mr. Blue?

A Short History of Nearly Everything

Come to class prepared to discuss at least one topic you found interesting in your reading. Aside from the class discussion, you will be making a Google Slide presentation during the first week of school about a specific topic from the Bryson book.

The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic and How It Changed Science, Cities, and the Modern World

Come to class prepared to discuss at least one topic you found interesting in your reading. Aside from the class discussion, you will be making a Google Slide presentation during the first week of school about a specific topic from a particular aspect of the case presented in the book.

Sophocles' Oedipus the King

Write a 500-word reflection in response to the book. Avoid mere plot summary and focus instead on personal reactions and lessons learned. You will be provided with a guideline sheet in Schoology.

Left to Tell

Write a 500-word reflection in response to the book. Avoid mere plot summary and focus instead on personal reactions and lessons learned.

First They Killed My Father

Write a 500-word reflection in response to the book. Avoid mere plot summary and focus instead on personal reactions and lessons learned.

The Disappearing Spoon and Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the History of the World from the Periodic Table of the Elements

Come to class prepared to discuss at least one process, chemical, or scientist you found interesting in your reading. Aside from the class discussion, you will be making a Google Slide presentation about a specific element or case discussed in your book. While those presentations will be assigned the first week of school, it would be helpful to be thinking about 1 or 2 topics for your presentation.

The Poisoner's Handbook, Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York

Come to class prepared to discuss at least one process, chemical, or scientist you found interesting in your reading. Aside from the class discussion, you will be making a Google Slide presentation about a specific element or case discussed in your book. While those presentations will be assigned the first week of school, it would be helpful to be thinking about 1 or 2 topics for your presentation.

The Poison Squad: One Chemist's Single-minded Crusade for Food Safety at the Turn of the Twentieth Century

Come to class prepared to discuss at least one process, chemical, or scientist you found interesting in your reading. Aside from the class discussion, you will be making a Google Slide presentation about a specific element or case discussed in your book. While those presentations will be assigned the first week of school, it would be helpful to be thinking about 1 or 2 topics for your presentation.

Their Eyes Were Watching God

Write a 500-word reflection in response to the book. Avoid mere plot summary and focus instead on personal reactions and lessons learned.

Of Mice and Men

Write a 500-word reflection in response to the book. Avoid mere plot summary and focus instead on personal reactions and lessons learned.

The Jungle

In no less than 500 words, consider the historical significance of your selected novel and use examples from the text to consider the following:

1. Research the date and location of publication and how the book was received by the public. How might this be useful information in assessing the historical significance of the novel?
2. What can historians learn of American society from reading this book? Consider the central issue at hand and how the author intends readers to feel about that issue. What is the solution suggested by the novel?

Uncle Tom's Cabin

In no less than 500 words, consider the historical significance of your selected novel and use examples from the text to consider the following:

1. Research the date and location of publication and how the book was received by the public. How might this be useful information in assessing the historical significance of the novel?
2. What can historians learn of American society from reading this book? Consider the central issue at hand and how the author intends readers to feel about that issue. What is the solution suggested by the novel?

Signposts to God: How Modern Physics and Astronomy Point the Way to Belief

Summarize two main ideas from each chapter. After your final chapter summaries, conclude with a paragraph describing your thoughts on the marriage of science and Christian belief. You do not have to agree with the author but you must academically defend your view.

Tattoos on the Heart

Reflect during your summer reading and be prepared for an in-class 3-page reflection on the following questions...

1. What surprised or moved you from this book?
2. How did you see God work in these stories?
3. How does Homeboy Industries live out the Christian call to servant leadership?

Writing with Style

Please annotate your text. Highlight information that you may find useful throughout the year as you focus on your own writing and jot your reactions in the margin of the book. If you prefer to keep annotated notes instead, that is fine with me. I'm looking for evidence of quality time spent with the text. These notes are due the first full day of class.