

**Western Academy 2023 Summer Reading Assignment**  
***Entering Seventh***

The Summer Reading Assignment is designed to cultivate a love of reading among our students and prepare them for the fall academic culture at Western Academy. The books, stories and poems have been carefully selected to foster an enjoyable and thoughtful reading experience. The memorized poetry and completed readings are due the first day of school. The first weeks of school will include discussion and work on the summer reading and poetry.

Here are the steps to complete this assignment successfully.

~ **Read** all assigned books, stories, and poems.

~ **Memorize** the poem to recite for the first week of school. Practice reciting it to your family.

**Suggestions for enjoyable completion of summer work:**

- ~ Read (or have a parent read) some of the stories aloud (unabridged audio books can also be used) while the student reads along with his book. Read the poem aloud at dinner and discuss!
- ~ Set up a schedule early in the summer (for example: 30 minutes of reading every day before lunch).
- ~ Take notes after reading so you are ready for the summer reading assignments upon returning to school in the fall.

**Books:**

- *Call of the Wild* by Jack London (Adventure Fiction); ISBN 9780141321059
- *King Solomon's Mines* by H. Rider Haggard (Adventure Fiction); ISBN 9780486447827
- *True Grit* by Charles Portis (Western Fiction); ISBN 9781468306293

**Poem:**

**The Windhover**  
by Gerard Manley Hopkins

*To Christ Our Lord*

I caught this morning's minion, king-  
dom of daylight's dauphin, dapple-dawn-drawn Falcon, in his riding  
Of the rolling level underneath him steady air, and striding  
High there, how he rung upon the rein of a wimpling wing  
In his ecstasy! then off, off forth on swing,  
As a skate's heel sweeps smooth on a bow-bend: the hurl and gliding  
Rebuffed the big wind. My heart in hiding  
Stirred for a bird, – the achieve of, the mastery of the thing!  
Brute beauty and valour and act, oh, air, pride, plume, here  
Buckle! AND the fire that breaks from thee then, a billion  
Times told lovelier, more dangerous, O my chevalier!  
  
No wonder of it: shéer plóð makes plough down sillion  
Shine, and blue-bleak embers, ah my dear,  
Fall, gall themselves, and gash gold-vermilion.

Other suggested reading:

*Lee and Grant at Appomattox* by MacKinlay Kantor (Historical Fiction); ISBN 9780760352267

*Mr. Midshipman Hornblower* by C.S. Forester (Adventure Fiction); ISBN 9780316289122

*Shiloh* by Shelby Foote; ISBN 9780679735427

*The Last Crusader* by Louis de Wohl (Historical Fiction); ISBN 9781586174149

*The Once and Future King* by T. H. White (Fantasy/Fiction); ISBN 9780441627400

*Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson (Adventure Fiction); ISBN 9781101990322

Other suggested poems:

“The Solitary Reaper” by William Wordsworth