



**FAITH CHRISTIAN**  
SCHOOL

**EIGHTH GRADE SUMMER READING 2026**

*Read the following two books before the first day of school.*

1. Each student will read “*The Bronze Bow*” by Elizabeth George Speare (ISBN 978-0395137192). This novel is set during the Roman Empire when Jesus was on Earth. Please write a four-paragraph essay to be submitted on the first day of class, following the structure below:

Essay Format:

- An introduction paragraph that includes the title, author, and summary of the book’s plot.
- One body paragraph that introduces the main characters.
- One body paragraph that summarizes the main themes you observed in the book.
- A conclusion paragraph summarizing what can be applied to your life or faith from reading this book.
- Make sure to include in-text MLA citations for any specific quotes that you include in your essay. A sample in-text citation is (Speare 45).

The paper **must be typed**, following standard MLA formatting.

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2. Each student will also read **one additional book chosen from the Grades 8-9 Reading List** (attached at the end of this document). Summarize the book’s plot, main characters, and themes in a three-paragraph essay. Be sure to name the book and the author in the first sentence.

The paper **must be typed** following standard MLA formatting.

Essay Format:

- An introduction paragraph that includes the title and author, then summarizes the characters and plot of the book.
- One body paragraph that summarizes the main themes you observed in the book.
- A conclusion paragraph that summarizes what can be applied to your life or faith as a result of reading the additional selected book from the list.

- Make sure to include in-text MLA citations if you choose to incorporate specific quotes into your essay. A sample in-text citation is (Speare 23).

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Students should affirm the integrity of their work by writing the following pledge on each assignment and signing it: **I have read this whole book, and all work is my own.**

## Grades 8-9 Summer Reading Lists

### Fiction Selections

Author	Title
Alcott	<i>Little Women</i>
Anderson	<i>Chains</i>
Anderson	<i>Forge</i>
Christie	<i>And Then There Were None</i>
Christie	<i>Murder on the Orient Express</i>
Cooper	<i>Last of the Mohicans</i>
Crane	<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i>
Dickens	<i>Oliver Twist</i>
Dumas	<i>The Three Musketeers</i>
Eliot	<i>Silas Marner</i>
Forster	<i>A Passage to India</i>
Mallory	<i>Le Morte d' Arthur</i>
Shelley	<i>Frankenstein</i>
Verne	<i>Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea</i>
White	<i>The Once and Future King</i>

### Non-Fiction Selections

Author	Title
Armstrong	<i>Photo by Brady: A Picture of the Civil War</i>
Blatner	<i>The Joy of Pi</i>
Frank	<i>The Diary of a Young Girl</i>
Freedman	<i>The War to End All Wars</i>
Jiang	<i>Red Scarf Girl</i>
Lansing	<i>Endurance</i>
Murphy	<i>An American Plague</i>
Stone	<i>Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream</i>

