



FAITH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Ninth Grade Summer Reading Assignment 2026

1. Each student will read the following:

- *A Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*, by Frederick Douglass

- Students are expected to make **marginal** and **textual** notes as they read to show evidence of “active” reading, and they should clearly mark any parts of the text where they have questions. **Pay special attention to Douglass’s words about religion. (Annotations are worth 50 points, so be THOROUGH.)**
- **Students should also answer the comprehension questions (handout).**
- During the first week of class, students will prepare for a paper on the “the slaveholding religion of the South.”

2. Each student will also read one book chosen from the Grade 8-9 Book List (attached at the end of this document). For that book, the student will complete a five-paragraph essay, to be turned in on the first day of school. Students may write their essays on one of the following topics:

1. A comparison between two of the major characters, **using specific examples from the text. Examples must be cited in MLA format, whether or not they are quoted.**
2. An explanation of a major theme of the book **with supporting quotes. Examples must be cited in MLA format, whether or not they are quoted.**
3. A discussion of setting (time, place, mood/atmosphere) with **specific examples of how the setting advances the plot. Examples must be cited in MLA format, whether or not they are quoted.**
4. For non-fiction: A description of challenges faced and how they were overcome, **using specific examples from the text. Examples must be cited in MLA format, whether or not they are quoted.**

Checklist for summer essay:

- _____ Paper is typed in 12-point, Times New Roman font
- _____ Paper is double-spaced, with 1-inch margins on all sides
- _____ Paper has a title and page numbers
- _____ All quotations from the text are cited in MLA format: **(Author last name page number)**
- _____ Paper contains a Works Cited page*

*The Works Cited Entry for a book (with no editor or translator):

Author Last Name, Author First Name. <i>Title</i> . Publisher, publication date. (NOTE THE HANGING INDENT FOR A WORKS CITED ENTRY!)
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**Rising Ninth Grade Summer Reading Assignment for the required reading of
A Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, by Frederick Douglass**

Instructions: As you read each chapter, answer the following questions **IN COMPLETE SENTENCES. CITE the page number for your answers in parentheses. The period goes AFTER the citation (Example: (24).):**

Chapter 1

1. What is Frederick's last name at birth? _____

2. Why would slaveholders want to keep a slave ignorant of the date of his birth?

Chapter 2

Why would a slave whose life on a plantation was very bad fear being sold to a slave-trader?

Chapter 3

What happened to the slave who told Colonel Lloyd the truth about his master? _____

Chapter 4

What reason does Mr. Gore give for killing Demby the slave? _____

Chapter 5

Why did Frederick particularly want to go to Baltimore? _____

What were Frederick's initial impressions of his new mistress, Mrs. Sophia Auld? _____

Chapter 6

Why does inability to read keep men enslaved, according to Frederick and to Mr. Auld? _____

What does Frederick hope to gain by learning how to read? _____

Why is the life of a city slave so much better than the life of a plantation slave? _____

Chapter 7

What did Frederick learn from the book "The Columbian Orator"? _____

Chapter 8

Why was Frederick forced to return to the plantation after the death of his master? _____

What happened to Frederick's grandmother after the deaths of Lucretia and Andrew? _____

How does this anecdote help explain the value of slaves? _____

Chapter 9

What, according to Frederick, happens to Master Thomas Auld after his conversion to Christianity? Why? _____

How does Master Thomas propose to 'break' Frederick? _____

Chapter 10

What does Frederick mean by "Mr. Covey's forte consisted in his power to deceive"? _____

Why does Mr. Covey buy a slave to use as a breeder? _____

Why is Frederick's battle with Mr. Covey "the turning-point in my career as a slave"? _____

How are the holidays used to "disgust the slave with freedom"? _____

What must Frederick do with the wages he earns each week as a caulker? Why? _____

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>