

CCS Summer Reading Assignment

Rising 11th Grade Students

Your assignment is to choose 2 of the following short stories/poems from the list below and complete the essay prompt.

Works of Edgar Allan Poe: The links will take you to the short story/poem.

- *The Pit and the Pendulum* ([The Pit and the Pendulum](#))
- *The Masque of Red Death* ([The Masque of Red Death](#))
- *The Fall of the House of Usher* ([The Fall of the House of Usher](#))
- *The Tell-Tale Heart* ([The Tell-Tale Heart](#))
- *The Cask of Amontillado* ([The Cask of Amontillado](#))
- *The Bells* (Text: [The Bells](#) Video: [The Bells](#))
- *The Raven* (Text: [The Raven](#) Video: [The Raven](#))
- *Alone* ([Alone](#))

Essay Prompt:

Edgar Allan Poe is a masterful writer. He has great lyrical quality, historical significance, and distinct tones and moods throughout each piece of literature he has crafted. Using the two works you have chosen to read from the list above, compare and contrast the historical significance of each piece as well as how he achieves the tone and mood that he set for each short story or poem. Avoid mere plot summary.

Keep in mind, your essay:

- must be at least 5 paragraphs in length (introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion). You may have more than 5 if you see fit.
- must include a thesis statement, which succinctly expresses your main argument. Your thesis should be based on the essay prompt and should include your 3 main points.
- must give at least 6 specific textual examples, which support your thesis – 3 per story/poem minimum. Each body paragraph should contain textual examples.
- should be free of grammatical and spelling errors. Upload your essay to [grammarly.com](#) prior to turning it in.
- must be in MLA format (typed, 12 point Times New Roman, double-spaced, with a proper heading)

Please note:

Your responses should be 100% your own. You may not reference the internet or any other source outside of your brain in answering the prompt. To do so would be plagiarism and will result in no extra credit.

This is an OPTIONAL assignment. Students may complete up to two assignments for extra credit using the list of Poe titles above. Students who successfully complete the reading assignment(s) will receive one percentage point per assignment added to the final grade for the first quarter in Language Arts. The completed assignment and summer reading pledge are due to the Language Arts teacher on the first day of school.

**CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
SUMMER READING PLEDGE**

Name: _____ **Grade Entering:** _____

Title of Book: _____

Author: _____

- I have read this entire book.
- I have never read this book before this summer.
- No one has helped me in the preparation of the summer reading assignment.

Student Signature

Date

- My student has completed the CCS summer reading assignment.

Parent Signature

Date