

CCS Summer Reading Assignment

Rising 9th Grade Students

Your assignment is to read one of the following novels and complete the essay prompt listed below.

Novels:

- *The Red Badge of Courage* – by Stephen Crane
- *Adam of the Road* – by Elizabeth Vining

Essay Prompts:

- *The Red Badge of Courage*: One of the most important themes in *The Red Badge of Courage* is that nature is indifferent to human life. How does the novel convey this theme? What are some of its most important symbols? What does it mean for the universe to be “indifferent”? Use specific examples from the text to support your evidence.
- *Adam of the Road*: Decide whether you believe that Adam belongs on the road rather than in school. In a well-organized essay, analyze the logical and emotional reasons why he belongs or doesn't belong on the road, and then justify why the author made the choice that she did. Be sure to back up your statements with the text!

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 – 2 minimum per body paragraph – along with page numbers in parentheses for citation
- 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 three reading assignments for extra credit. Books must be selected from the 9th-12th Summer Reading List. 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