

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading  
2025-2026 School Year**

**Due Date:** First day of school (August 13, 2025)

**Books:**

*Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding

ISBN: 978-399501487

*The Hobbit*, by J.R.R. Tolkien

ISBN: 978-0618260300

**Citation Information:**

- **Example, MLA 9th edition:**

*Author's Last Name, First Name. Title of Book. Publisher, Year of Publication.*

- **In-text citations:**

- Example Sentence:

Ralph's realization of the "end of innocence" symbolizes the deep loss caused by their descent into savagery (Golding 202).

- Explanation:

- The author's last name (Golding) and the page number (202) are placed in parentheses at the end of the sentence.
    - No comma is used between the name and the page number.
    - The period goes after the parentheses.

**Assignments (3)**

**1. Annotate Both Books:**

- **Instructions:** Students are to read and annotate both books they read. The books and their annotations are to be submitted on the first day of school for a grade in literature.
- **Annotations:** Annotation is your opportunity to engage with the author and the story. In essence, it allows you to talk to the novel. Taking part in the conversation with the novel and its characters will help you to remember what you read and improve your understanding of the story. This is done by using a combination of notes and symbols in your book. Below are some key points to remember for annotating. I have also created an annotation guide that you can use for a quick reference.
  - Avoid the use of highlighters and markers as they often bleed through the pages.
  - Observe your text. Good reading isn't fast or perfect - it's slowing down to observe, to see, what is happening in the novel.
  - Trust what you notice! No one knows what is important the first time they read.

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading  
2025-2026 School Year**

- I'm not asking you to find specific things. Everyone is unique and what you notice, or think is important, might be different from your classmates.
- "Connections" can be a lot of things. It is important to make connections between the novel and your existing knowledge or experiences. These can include events, thoughts, or characters in the novel, your own experiences, feelings, people you know, or other books you have read.
- Mark words or phrases. You do NOT need to mark whole sentences, just a word or phrase is enough.
- Use open spaces like the beginning/end of the novel or chapter.
  - Character lists – great for keeping track of who you meet in a chapter
  - Page numbers for important information
  - List themes, plot points, etc. with page numbers
  - Write a short (1 or 2 sentences) summary at the end of each chapter
- Think of a synonym. When you find a word you don't know, think about what the meaning might be, look up the definition, and write down a synonym that you'll remember.

**2. *The Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding**

- **Instructions:** The essay is also due on the first day of school. It is a test grade for literature. We will use the essay in our first few lessons, so it is imperative that students read the books and complete the essay before school begins. Students are to complete the pre-writing exercise (below) and use it to write their essay response for the prompt below.

The essay should be an example of their best work. Please make sure that the essay meets the following requirements:

- Hand-written in the student's best cursive (all steps, from pre-writing to final draft)
- Skip lines to allow space for comments and editing
- Correct spelling, grammar and mechanics (punctuation, capitalization, etc.)
- Citations are used
  - Book information goes at the end of the essay and is titled "Works Cited"
  - Examples from the book are cited using in-text citations

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading  
2025-2026 School Year**

On the first day of school, students should submit:

- Pre-writing
  - Edited final draft
  - Rough draft with editing marks / changes
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- **Prompt:** *Even though much of the story is dark, the boys are rescued at the end. What message of hope or redemption can we take from the ending? How does this reflect God's constant offer of forgiveness and salvation, even when people fall into sin?*
  - **Prewriting:**
    - Understand the prompt – consider how the novel ends and connect that to the message of God's forgiveness and salvation.
    - Reflect on what happens at the end of the novel
      - After you make notes about the end of the novel, consider the following questions:
        - What do the boys' tears represent?
        - How do you think Ralph feels about being saved?
        - Why is it important that an adult appears at this moment?
    - Faith Connection
      - Redemption
        - What is it or what does it mean?
        - Biblical examples?
        - Provide examples from the novel, with page numbers?
      - God's Forgiveness
        - What does God's forgiveness mean?
        - Bible verses or stories that show / support your explanation of God's forgiveness?
        - Provide examples from the novel, with page numbers?
    - Use these notes to create an outline to organize your essay
  - **Rough Draft**
    - Organize your essay with at least 3 paragraphs. Suggestions for the paragraphs are below, but you are free to organize your essay any way you choose.
    - Introduction
      - Explain what *Lord of the Flies* is about
      - Briefly (1-2 sentences) connect the summary of the novel with the idea of hope and redemption

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading  
2025-2026 School Year**

- Thesis statement – one sentence that answers the prompt
- Body
  - Describe the rescue and what it symbolizes
  - Explain how the rescue is like God’s forgiveness and redemption
  - Share how this can offer encouragement and hope to people today
  - Remember - support your answers with examples from the novel and the Bible
- Conclusion
  - Restate your thesis in a new way
  - Reflect on what you wrote, the importance of hope and redemption

**3. *The Hobbit*, by JRR Tolkien**

- **Instructions:** Students are to create a “one-pager” book report that combines visual elements and thoughtful reflection to answer the prompt below. They may create it completely from scratch or use a template. I have also included some examples of “one-pagers.”
- **Prompt:** Tolkien once said that his stories reflect a belief in “divine providence”—the idea that God is guiding events for good. Where in *The Hobbit* do you see signs that something greater is at work, helping Bilbo and the others? How does this relate to the Catholic understanding of God’s plan for our lives?
- **Required Elements:**
  - Standard size (8 ½ x 11), unlined paper
  - Use color pens, markers, paint, etc., unless black and white is the best design choice
    - Writing must be in ink – no pencil
  - Everything must be drawn / written by the student’s hand – no printed materials allowed
  - Citations are used
    - Book information goes on the back under your heading
    - Examples from the book are cited using in-text citations near the information
  - On the back of your one-pager:
    - Full heading
    - Citation for your copy of *The Hobbit*
  - Title and author of the book prominently displayed on the front
  - Written Reflection

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading  
2025-2026 School Year**

- Describe two examples from the novel where Bilbo or others are helped by something more than luck
- Explain how these moments connect to the Catholic belief that God has a plan for us, even in hard or confusing times
- Quote
  - Include at least one meaningful quote that shows a moment of providence, guidance, or unexpected help that connects to or supports one of your examples in the written reflection
  - Remember to use quotation marks and cite the page number
- Symbol or Illustration
  - Draw at least one image that represents divine providence in the novel
  - Include a page number(s) for reference
- One-paragraph (6+ sentences) summary of the plot
  - Description of the setting (time, place, social conditions, etc.), and whether these elements change throughout the novel
- Name and description of the main characters

**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades Literature Essay Rubric: *Lord of the Flies***

Category	4 – Excellent	3 – Proficient	2 – Developing	1 – Beginning	Score
<b>Understanding of Novel &amp; Prompt</b>	Strong understanding of the ending; clearly explains the theme of hope and redemption.	Good understanding; mostly connects ideas to the theme.	Basic understanding with unclear or limited connection to the theme.	Misunderstands the novel or the theme; little connection to the prompt.	
<b>Faith Integration</b>	Thoughtful, accurate explanation of God’s forgiveness and redemption; strong biblical support.	Good explanation; includes relevant biblical examples.	Some attempt at faith connection; limited or vague biblical references.	No clear explanation of faith or missing biblical examples.	
<b>Use of Textual Evidence</b>	Strong examples from the novel and Bible; correct in-text citations used.	Good examples; citations mostly correct.	Limited examples; few or incorrect citations.	Few or no examples; citations not used.	
<b>Organization &amp; Structure</b>	Clear intro, body, and conclusion; logical flow and strong paragraph development.	Mostly organized; minor structure or transition issues.	Some structure; weak flow or underdeveloped paragraphs.	Disorganized; missing major parts or difficult to follow.	
<b>Mechanics &amp; Presentation</b>	Neatly handwritten in cursive; very few errors; all format directions followed.	Cursive is mostly neat; some errors; most format directions followed.	Several errors; cursive or format issues.	Many errors; difficult to read or missing formatting directions.	

**Required Components Checklist:**

- ☐ Pre-writing with notes and outline
- ☐ Rough draft with editing marks
- ☐ Final draft handwritten in neat cursive with skipped lines

**Grading Scale:**

A = 18-20 pts  
 B = 16-17 pts  
 C = 14-15 pts  
 D = 12-13 pts  
 F = 0-11 pts

**TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_ / 20**

**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade One-Pager Rubric: *The Hobbit***

Category	4 – Excellent	3 – Proficient	2 – Developing	1 – Beginning	Score
<b>Reflection &amp; Faith Connection</b>	Insightful explanation with two clear examples of divine providence; strong connection to Catholic teaching.	Good explanation with two examples; faith connection is present but could be stronger.	Basic explanation; one example or weak connection to Catholic belief.	Missing or unclear reflection; little to no faith connection.	
<b>Quote &amp; Citation Use</b>	Strong quote selected and well-integrated; correct citation format used.	Appropriate quote; minor citation or integration issues.	Quote included but may be vague, unclear, or missing citation.	No quote or improperly used quote; citation missing.	
<b>Symbol or Illustration</b>	Creative and meaningful image clearly tied to divine providence; page number included.	Relevant image; page number provided.	Image included but not clearly explained or missing page number.	Image missing or unrelated to divine providence.	
<b>Written Components (Summary &amp; Characters)</b>	Clear, detailed summary and accurate character descriptions; meets paragraph requirements.	Good summary and character descriptions with minor detail issues.	Basic or incomplete summary and/or character info; may lack required length.	Summary or character info is missing or very limited.	
<b>Visual Presentation &amp; Effort</b>	Neat, colorful, well-organized; all work clearly student-created; no pencil used.	Neat with color; small issues with organization or effort.	Basic visual effort; some disorganization or lack of required elements.	Messy, disorganized, or missing visual requirements (color, ink, size, etc.)	

**Required Elements Checklist:**

- ☐ Full heading on back
- ☐ Citation for *The Hobbit* on back
- ☐ Title and author clearly displayed on front

**Grading Scale:**

A = 18-20 pts  
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 C = 14-15 pts  
 D = 12-13 pts  
 F = 0-11 pts

**TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_ / 20**