

Books

- Choose (at least) ONE of the following books to read.
 - I say “at least” because you are not limited to one. If you want to read more from the list, or at least try to read more than one from the list, I encourage you to do so.
 - Yes, you may try to read one from the list and find you simply cannot get past the first 50 pages. For even the shorter books, and some of these are not long, try to get to at least 50 pages even if it feels like a painful mental slog. Some books are not hard to read because of the words on the page, but because of the writer’s style isn’t interesting, your expectations aren’t being, the story or topic isn’t as interesting as you thought it might be, or, in some cases, the story is just too hard to read. You may feel that way about *The Tank Man’s Son* or *Glass Castle* though I think that they, like all the rest, are worth reading.
- When you decide which book(s), jot down why you chose the book. The title? The cover? What you think might be the purpose or point of the story? What you thought or felt when you read the blurb? All of the above? Something else entirely?
- IF you decide to stop a book (and, therefore, pick up another), jot down why getting to page 51 and beyond was just not possible. Whatever you’re thinking and feeling about the text is legitimate, so do your best to articulate that.
- WHEN you have finished reading your selected book(s), tell me about your reading experience. You can write that as a letter to me or to a friend of yours, or as an essay. You will find with me that, for the most part, your writing is as long as it needs to be so say what you want and need to say, though please try to do so with clarity, and good grammar and mechanics.
- The tone and the style of your letter can be first person and somewhat informal; your essay can be first person and should be more formal. Audience awareness is important. Oh, and don’t tell me what you feel unless you are really describing what you feel. You should also be telling me what you think and what you believe, which can be much stronger and descriptive verbs.
- Put that letter or essay in a Word document, please, and email that Word document to me at eroberts@harvestbible.org. I’d like to see that document at least a week before school starts, but I can wait until school starts.

The List

- Berkman, Seth. *A Team of Their Own: How an International Sisterhood Made Olympic History*. Hanover Square Press, 2019.
- Bouman, Mark. *The Tank Man's Son: A Memoir*. Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2015.
- Brown, Daniel James. *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*. Viking Penguin Group, 2013.
- Cain, Susan. *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking*. Crown Publishing Group, 2013.
- Dubner, Stephen J. and Steven Levitt. *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*. William Morrow Paperbacks, 2009.
- Epstein, David. *Range: How Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World*. Penguin Random House, 2019.
- Kahneman, Daniel. *Thinking, Fast and Slow*. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2011.
- Lewis, C.S. *Mere Christianity*.j
- Lewis, C.S. *The Abolition of Man*.
- Machiavelli, Niccolò. *The Prince*. Dover Publications, 1992.
- Pilkington, Doris (Nugi Garimar). *Follow the Rabbit-Proof Fence*. University of Queensland Press, 1996.
- Schapp, Jeremy. *Triumph: The Untold Story of Jesse Owens and Hitler's Olympics*. Houghton Mifflin, 2007.
- Stevenson, Bryan. *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. Spiegel & Grau, 2014.
- Tolstoy, Leo. *A Confession and Other Religious Writings*. Penguin Books, 1987.
- Wells, Jeannette. *Glass Castle: A Memoir*. Scribner Book Company, 2006.
- Westover, Tara. *Educated*. Random House, 2018.

Essays

- Please read ONE of these two essays:
 - Ralph Waldo Emerson, [Self Reliance](#).
 - George Orwell, [Politics and the English Language](#).
- Before you read
 - think about what you think you know about the writer and his time;
 - think about what the words in the title mean to you; and
 - think about your expectations based on what the words in the title mean to you *and* what you think you know about the writer and his time.
- Both essays are long and I suggest you print out a copy so you can make notes and jot down questions in the margins, underline what you think is important (though you might also make margin notes about *why* that bit is important), and circle and highlight as you are inclined.
- When you have finished reading, and perhaps after you've given yourself some time to finish processing, write down your key questions and your key take-aways; that is, what are the things that are lingering with you? What are you still puzzling over or wondering about? What words or phrases or ideas keep creeping back into your thoughts?
- After a while, a week or so at least, write another letter or another essay. If you write another essay, this one can be first person and more informal, though preferably with clarity and good grammar and mechanics.
- As with the book, put that letter or essay in a Word document, please, and email that Word document to me at eroberts@harvestbible.org. I'd like to see that document at least a week before school starts, but I can wait until school starts.