

## Summer Reading Writing Assignment Grades 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>

To maintain your reading and writing skills during the summer months, HLS assigns summer reading books and short, corresponding essays. Each book and essay prompt are crafted to carry on the class discussion from the prior school year and to prep you for the conversations that you will have next year. Please see your grade's reading and essay prompt below. Your essays are due the first week of school.

Summer reading is a relaxing tradition at HLS, and one in which your teachers participate with you. We hope you enjoy the books. Happy reading.

### Readings and Prompts

Rising 9<sup>th</sup>: *All Creatures Great and Small* by James Herriot  
Detail how a character from *All Creatures Great and Small* exemplifies nobility.

Rising 10<sup>th</sup>: *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens  
In *Great Expectations*, how is God's order expressed in human affairs?

Rising 11<sup>th</sup>: *The Man Who Was Thursday* by G.K. Chesterton  
How does the notion of eternity influence temporal concerns in *The Man Who Was Thursday*?

Rising 12<sup>th</sup>: *Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien  
Describe what the hobbits in *The Lord of the Rings* reveal about being little actors in a big world—that is, part of a greater story that is not your own.

### Essay Directions

Each essay should be:

- typed in MLA format.
- Approximately two paragraphs in length
- the student's original work (not AI assisted).
- centered by a clear, defensible thesis statement in the first paragraph.
- and supported by evidence from the text.