



**Summer Study 2026:
Analytical Reading for Students Entering Group VIII**

Dear Class of 2031,

Welcome to Group VIII! We look forward to a rewarding year of reading and writing together, and we are excited to get to know you. Your summer assignment is as follows:

1. Read TWO books from the list below. You do NOT have to annotate these books- just enjoy reading. You will choose the one you preferred and give a short book talk when you return in the fall, so perhaps a post-it note with a few notes about the book would be helpful if you're worried you'll forget by September!
2. Read our required novel, *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd. Our theme next year is Coming-of-Age, and this book follows Lily Owens as she journeys to discover information about her mother, which leads to her own growth and discoveries about racism, love, and family. You WILL annotate this book- see guidelines below.
3. Complete the written assignment below after you finish reading *The Secret Life of Bees*.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at mcorbo@greenwichacademy.org and cmontgelas@greenwichacademy.org. We hope you have a restful summer, and we look forward to seeing you in September!

Best,

Mrs. Corbo and Ms. Montgelas

The Secret Life of Bees

What to annotate: Read *The Secret Life of Bees* actively. Have a conversation with your book. Star, circle, underline, and write notes in the margins to help you notice ideas and remember them more clearly. These annotations will help you when we write a literary essay this fall:

- Personal reactions (OMG, haha, !, ?, 😞, 😊)
- Again and Again- what words, images, objects, and situations are repeated?
- Character traits and changes
- Relationship changes
- Star important passages (*)
- Foreshadowing
- Mark examples of prejudice
- Coming of age:
 - Identify examples of **CHILDHOOD** characteristics.
 - Identify examples of **ADOLESCENT** characteristics.
 - Identify examples of **ADULT** characteristics.

Written assignment:

Our theme for the year is **Coming of Age**. Consider the following questions: What causes children to grow up? (people? events? challenges? natural growth?) How does one know when one crosses the lines from childhood to adolescence to adulthood? What are the identifying characteristics of childhood? Of adolescence? Of adulthood? How important are parents or friends in this process?

Write a **one paragraph response** that answers the following question:

How does someone grow up and move out of the CHILDHOOD stage of life?

Use this outline for your paragraph: (paragraph should be about 8-10 sentences)

1. Topic sentence
2. Example #1: Think of an example of someone (in a movie, a book, a historical figure, etc) who “grew up.” Explain their growth and why/how they matured?
3. Example #2: A personal example of a moment that helped you grow (personal pronouns *I/me* are allowed).
4. Concluding sentence

***Note:** This is a personal response and does NOT need to use an example from *The Secret Life of Bees*

Group VIII Summer Reading List (Choose any TWO)

Fantasy/ Science Fiction/ Dystopian

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card
The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
Seraphina by Rachel Hartman
The Last Cuentista by Donna Barba Higuera

Historical Fiction

Girl in the Blue Coat by Monica Hesse
The Book Thief by Markus Zusak
I Must Betray You by Ruta Sepetys
How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents by Julia Alvarez

Mystery and Adventure

One of Us is Lying by Karen McManus
The Inheritance Games (series) by Jennifer Lynn Barnes
Truly Devious by Maureen Johnson
Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie

Realistic

The Sun is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon
Redwood and Ponytail by K.A. Holt
The Fault in Our Stars by John Green
Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds

Classics

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier
Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

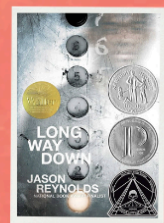
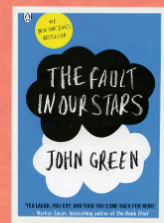
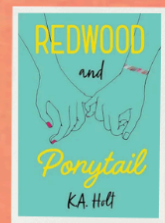
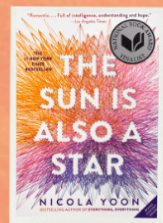
Nonfiction

Everything is Tuberculosis by John Green
The Amazing Generation by Jonathan Haidt
Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell
The Boys in the Boat (Young Readers Edition) by Daniel James Brown

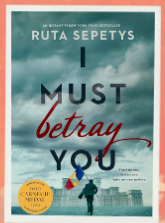
GROUP VIII

Summer Books

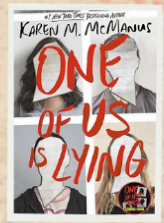
Realistic



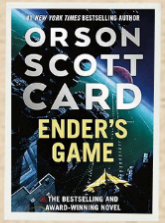
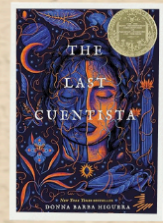
Historical



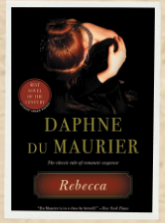
Mystery



Fantasy



Classics



Non-fiction

