

**TTCA Summer Reading**  
**Grades 9-12 (2024-2025)**

**TTCA Mission Statement:** Twin Tiers Christian Academy is dedicated to inspiring students with a Christ-centered, student-focused, and college-oriented education.

**TTCA Vision Statement:** The vision of Twin Tiers Christian Academy is that all graduates will be committed Christ-followers who are community-minded and prepared to make a global impact.

**Next Year's School Theme:** Character Counts: From the Inside Out (Thoughts, Words, Deeds)<sup>1</sup>

- **Emphasis:** Character Development
- **Next Year's Chapel Series:** "Character Counts"

**Summer Reading's Purpose:** To align with TTCA's mission and vision statements as well as the school theme; to instill godly thinking and biblical truth in the student body; to prepare the students to become academically and spiritually fit; to prepare the students to interact within the culture, the time, and the place that God has placed them.

**TTCA's Summer Reading Requirements**

**Books:**

**Grade 9:** [\*A Student's Guide to Culture\*](#) by John Stonestreet and Brett Kunkle

**Grades 10-12:** Choose **one** of the following options.

1. [\*Why You Think the Way You Do: The Story of Western Worldviews from Rome to Home\*](#) (Mrs. Nugent's students may have read some chapters of this book in Global History.)
2. [\*Seven Women: And the Secret of Their Greatness\*](#) (This is a shorter book with stories. This might be easier for reluctant or struggling readers.)
3. [\*Seven Men: And the Secret of Their Greatness\*](#) (This is a shorter book with stories. This might be easier for reluctant or struggling readers.)
4. **A Christian biography or autobiography** that you believe is content and age appropriate for your student.

**Read and annotate** each page (in the margins) of the book, **starting with the introduction and ending with the epilogue** (if your book has them). (Please do not write on note paper. You may use sticky notes, but they must stay in the book.)

See the annotation checklist in this packet. **At least one annotation per page.**

**Chapter Summaries:** At the end of each chapter, **write a 2-3 sentence summary** of that chapter.

<sup>1</sup> The theme's wording may change, but the idea will remain the same.

Do not quote the chapter. A summary is when the reader puts the author's words into their own words to **show understanding**. The summary should cover the main idea of the entire chapter. **See my example later in the packet.**

**Reading Preference:** TTCA's preference is that students read 1-2 chapters a week so that they keep their brains active and thinking critically throughout the whole summer.

**Parents:** There is an adult version of the Grade 9 book that you could read along with your child. This book follows the same basic structure, but goes more in-depth for each chapter. There are some chapter differences. I read this version as part of my Colson Fellowship in 2020.

*[A Practical Guide to Culture: Helping the Next Generation Navigate Today's World](#)* by John Stonestreet and Brett Kunkle

### Due Dates & Grading

★ **Bonus Due Date:** If your book is fully read, annotated with short chapter summaries, and submitted to Miss McDivitt by the first day of school, you will receive a TTCA coupon book with bonus passes.

★ **Due Date:** Your book must be fully read, annotated with short chapter summaries, and submitted to Miss McDivitt **by the end of the day on September 11, 2024** to be considered on time. (Students will receive a 10% deduction for late work, and an additional 10% deduction each week late.)

★ **Bible or English Test Grade: 100 points**

- Annotations (50 points)
- Chapter Summaries (50 points)

### Point of Contact

You may communicate with TTCA's high school Summer Reading Coordinator, Miss McDivitt, by using the following methods:

- Email:** [smcdivitt@twintiersca.org](mailto:smcdivitt@twintiersca.org)
- Call or Text:** 607-215-2651

**Annotations (50 points)** **While you read, annotate your book.**

- Please be respectful when you annotate. Pretend the author is standing in front of you when you write in your book. The author is your neighbor. You are called to show love to your neighbor even if you don't agree with them or the assignment.
- Please note, I will be reading your annotations. Don't put anything in writing that you would be uncomfortable with me reading.
- Annotating means to **actively read** your book by writing **and** highlighting or underlining, etc. in your book as you read. (*Credit will only be given for annotations with writing that shows evidence of thinking, and not just reacting.*) Below is a list of the different types of annotations. You should try each of the different types of annotations at least once. However, you only need **at least one annotation (more is preferable) per page of your book.**
  - Summary of what you read in that section
  - Evidence of thinking about the text and the author's perspective
  - Outline of the section/chapter
  - Interesting statements/quotations from the text
  - Evaluation of the author's evidence—is it appropriate? Unique? Does it contain logical fallacies? Does it contradict or agree with something else you read, saw, experienced?
  - Your reactions to the text and the author's viewpoint (Please be respectful. You can disagree without being nasty. You can also agree without being condescending to the opposing side.)
  - Definitions of unfamiliar words
  - Connections between the text and your own experience
  - Connections between the text and something you have read before
  - Connections between the text and something you have seen in the world
  - Questions you have about the material (either for the author or someone else who believes/disbelieves the material)
  - Answers to your questions found in the text
  - Arguments with the author's ideas
  - Personal responses
  - Inferences and guesses about the author's core beliefs
  - Drawings or diagrams, especially about details that are hard to picture
  - Anything else you find interesting or useful

**Chapter Summaries (50 points)**

- At the end of the introduction and each chapter, write a 2-3 sentence summary in your own words. Do not quote the text or plagiarize the text.
  - **The summary follows this formula:** The topic of the chapter + what the author said about the topic. Be sure to cover the whole chapter. Basically, your summary should answer the question: What was the chapter about?
  - **Example for Chapter 1:** *Culture is what humans do with the world that God has given them. Because humans are constantly changing, culture is constantly changing. Culture is made up of ideas, champions of these ideas, artifacts that reflect these ideas, and institutions that spread these ideas. Because I live in a culture, I will be affected by culture. I need to be a culture shaper rather than shaped by my culture.* (This is five sentences long, which is okay too.)