



"I know that books seem like the ultimate thing that's made by one person, but that's not true. Every reading of a book is a collaboration between the reader and the writer who are making the story up together."

John Green

## **Arborbrook Christian Academy High School Summer Reading 2015**

Please choose ONE of the following books to read and then complete the writing assignment that accompanies that selection. Please make sure you review the rubric for this assignment before you begin. This piece of writing will be collected on Wednesday, August 19, the first day of school.

In addition to reading one of the books below, you also need to read another book of your choosing. You will share your thoughts about that book on the first day of school in English class, including what the book is about and whether you recommend it or not.

### **That Hideous Strength C.S. Lewis**

*That Hideous Strength, the final book in Lewis' acclaimed Space Trilogy series, concludes the adventures of the matchless Dr. Ransom. Dark forces are massed for an assault on the planet Earth. Word is on the wind that the mighty wizard Merlin has come back to the land of the living after many centuries, holding the key to ultimate power for that force which can find him and bend him to its will. A sinister technocratic organization is gaining power throughout Europe with a plan to "recondition" society, and it is up to Ransom and his friends to squelch this threat by applying age-old wisdom to a new universe dominated by science. The two groups struggle to a climactic resolution that brings the Space Trilogy to a magnificent, crashing close.* Amazon

*Note: It is not absolutely necessary to have read the first two books in the series to understand and enjoy this book. In many ways, it stands alone.*

### **Into Thin Air John Krakauer**

*A bank of clouds was assembling on the not-so-distant horizon, but journalist-mountaineer Jon Krakauer, standing on the summit of Mt. Everest, saw nothing that "suggested that a murderous storm was bearing down." He was wrong. The storm, which claimed five lives and left countless more--including Krakauer's--in guilt-ridden disarray, would also provide the impetus for Into Thin Air, Krakauer's epic account of the May 1996 disaster.* Amazon

### **Last of the Mohicans James Fenimore Cooper**

*The last members of a dying Native American tribe, the Mohicans – Uncas, his father Chingachgook, and his adopted half-white brother Hawkeye--live in peace alongside British colonists. But when the daughters of a British colonel are kidnapped by a traitorous scout, Hawkeye and Uncas must rescue them in the crossfire of a gruesome military conflict of which they wanted no part: the French and Indian War. This classic story of adventure and romance has enchanted readers for a long time.*

## **Kisses From Katie**

**Katie J. Davis and Beth Clark**

*What would cause an eighteen-year-old senior class president and homecoming queen from Nashville, Tennessee, to disobey and disappoint her parents by forgoing college, break her little brother's heart, lose all but a handful of her friends (because they think she has gone off the deep end), and break up with the love of her life, all so she could move to Uganda, where she knew only one person and didn't even speak the language? A passion to follow Jesus. Amazon*

## **Assignments**

### *That Hideous Strength*

Compare Mark's character with Jane's. How are they similar despite all their differences and how does each uniquely transform through the course of the story?

### *Into Thin Air*

Sandy Pittman was widely criticized for her actions on Everest after she returned to New York City. Many reporters and columnists demonized her approach to the summit, with one going so far as to blame the entire tragedy on her. How much responsibility, if any, do you feel she should shoulder? Why? Explain and support your opinion from the story.

### *Last of the Mohicans*

Write a scene between Alice and Heyward five years after the conclusion of the novel. What has happened to each of them and how have the events of the novel affected them both?

### *Kisses From Katie*

Write a personal response to this book. How does Katie's story affect you? What questions would you ask Katie if you could? What can or should we learn from Katie's story? Be honest! Give your authentic response, not something you think we want to hear.

## **Rubric**

Standard Expectations	/20
2 pages long, Times New Roman, 12 point font, double spaced, 1 inch margin	
Mechanics:	/15
Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar	
Requirements:	/40
Writing follows directions and responds to all aspects of prompt	
Style:	/25
Well-written sentences and proper paragraph structure	