

Willows Academy  
10<sup>th</sup> Grade

# Summer Enrichment Requirements

Summer 2018



THE  
WILLOWS  
ACADEMY

# The Willows Academy

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## Summer Enrichment Guidelines

The goal of the summer break is to give our minds, bodies and spirits a time to rest, relax, grow, and prepare for what comes next in our lives. Summer is designed to be a break from the ordinary, to rest, and enjoy all that Chicago has to offer during the summer months. The Willows believes that this rest is accomplished by a change of activity rather than an absence of activity.

In order to help the students use their time well and keep their minds sharp while they relax, The Willows expects students to continue their studies over the summer by completing the summer enrichment expectations.

The **Summer Reading** is designed to be enjoyed throughout the summer months. Texts are chosen not just for their correlation to the curriculum, but also for their literary worth and enjoyment by the student. During the summer, students have the time to read slowly and to savor the texts they are reading, adding this literature to their intellectual fund of knowledge. Students are required to read the texts indicated, but very much encouraged to read from the recommended titles list. Students are also reminded that many libraries carry unabridged copies of these texts on audio books which, when read together with the text can greatly enhance the reading experience.

The **Math Review** is designed to review the previous year's mathematics in order to start the next level of math fully prepared for success. This work should be done throughout the summer. Math review work is required for students with any Quarter or Semester Grade of 84% or below OR a Test Average of 76% in their current math class.

Learning through service to others is an integral component of a Willows education. We encourage our students to begin their **Service Hours** over the summer months. Students in grades 6-12 are required to serve five hours of service in each of the three following categories: care for the elderly, service to the community, and assistance to the impoverished, for a total of fifteen meaningful service hours each year. Service Hours are not due until May 1, 2019, but we advise to get a head start over the summer.

In addition to these required activities, we also encourage parents to closely monitor student use of technology and television during the summer months. One quick guide a parent can use is to balance reading and other wholesome activities with television/technology/cell phone time. For every hour your daughter spends on the computer, in front of the tv, or on her phone, has she spent an hour: reading, doing a craft, playing music, exercising, playing sports, engaged in a service activity, helping out at home? As you well know as parents, it's all about balance!

We hope you enjoy this summer enrichment program, and we look forward to seeing all our students taller, tanner, and intellectually sharp on August 22!

# What is a Lexile?

Next to each text on the reading list we identify the Lexile® of each text. A Lexile® provides one piece of information about a student’s reading ability or about the difficulty of a text. A Lexile® allows us to predict how well a student may be able to comprehend a text; by matching a student Lexile® with a text Lexile® we increase the chances of students having a successful reading experience.

A Lexile® is based on a different principle than a “grade level equivalency.” In the same way that you don’t buy a shoe based on your daughter’s age, you buy it based on the size of her foot, you don’t identify a student’s reading level based on her age, but on her actual reading “size.” This reading “size” is her Lexile®.

Unlike reading fluency, the Lexile® measure focused on **comprehension**. It indicates identifies your daughter’s ability to decipher the words of the text (fluency) and her ability to understand what she just read.

A Lexile® is a flexible measure that acknowledges other factors that influence comprehension. For example, when interest is very high, a child a child may enjoy and comprehend texts at the high end or above her Lexile®. When the text is guided, for example the novels your child will read throughout the years, students can comprehend at much higher Lexile® because the text is read more slowly and its complexity is analyzed and guided in class by a teacher. When content is new or not interesting and unguided (as is summer reading), a student may need to read at a lower Lexile® to comprehend the text.

In addition to Lexile®, however, we all know that reading is a skill: the more a child reads, the stronger her reading skills will become.

We also know that some texts are simple, but very deep due to their themes and, despite their Lexile®, should be read at an older age or several times. For example, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (L940) could easily be placed on the senior reading list because of its allegory.

When helping your daughter select a text to read, consider two factors: 1) her reading ability and 2) her interest in the topic. To help you do this, we have provided summaries of all the texts on the list. If your daughter is a lower reader, but very interested in the topic, she may be able to do well with a text with a higher Lexile®. If your daughter’s interest in a text is very low, she may need a text with a lower Lexile® in order to get through it with comprehension.

From: [www.Lexile.com](http://www.Lexile.com)

**Although each child is at her own place at her own time...like her shoe size...in general, a student tends to fall into the following Lexile® ranges:**

Grade	Lexile Range
1	Up to 300L
2	140L to 500L
3	330L to 700L
4	445L to 810L
5	565L to 910L
6	665L to 1000L
7	735L to 1065L
8	805L to 1100L
9	855L to 1165L
10	905L to 1195L
11 and 12	940L to 1210L

# Incoming 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

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## Math Review

All incoming Algebra II students are required to complete a packet. You will receive this packet in class.

Students with any Quarter or Semester Grade of 84% or below OR a Test Average of 76% or below in Algebra I or Geometry are required to review their math skills using a Khan Academy Virtual Classroom. You will receive your assignments in class. Your online work will be graded and due by **Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**. *Please note that after you practice an assigned skill, there is a waiting period before you can access the mastery test on that skill.*

## World Language Review

With the goal of letting the girls have a break from the rigors of school, the French and Spanish language teachers have decided to create an opportunity for grades 10-12 to maintain and ideally sharpen their skills through the use of the online program **Duolingo**. Participation will be voluntary but highly encouraged, and teachers have explained the benefits of maintaining all of the skills that the girls have worked so hard to acquire during the year.

The lessons are “gameified”, meaning they are entertaining, and competition with oneself is rewarded with “expert points” and gold circles. There is a placement test offered at sign-up so that girls can place out of the very elementary lessons and begin at a higher level if they choose to do so.

Again, participation is not mandatory but highly encouraged, and the benefits of using Duolingo should be felt by all levels. The programs in French and Spanish are available on both the computer and smartphone.

## Summer Reading

**Assignment:** Read the text marked “REQUIRED”. The books listed under “suggested books” are not required, rather they are optional recommendations that students may choose from for additional summer enrichment.

**Assessment:** Group in-class discussion and writing activity.

### Required:

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#### **The Scarlet Pimpernel by Baroness Emmuska Orczy (L1140)**

The Scarlet Pimpernel is set in 1792, during the early stages of the French Revolution. Marguerite St. Just, a beautiful Frenchwoman, is the wife of wealthy English fop Sir Percy Blakeney, a baronet. Before their marriage, Marguerite took revenge upon the Marquis de St. Cyr, who had ordered her brother to be beaten for his romantic interest in the Marquis' daughter, with the unintended consequence of the Marquis and his sons being sent to the guillotine. When Percy found out, he became estranged from his wife. Marguerite, for her part, became disillusioned with Percy's shallow, dandyish lifestyle.

## **Suggested Books for Additional Summer Enrichment:**

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### **The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas (L810)**

In 1815 Edmond Dantès, a young and successful merchant sailor who has just recently been granted the succession of his erstwhile captain Leclère, returns to Marseille to marry his Catalan fiancée Mercédès. Thrown in prison for a crime he has not committed, Edmond Dantès is confined to the grim fortress of If. There he learns of a great hoard of treasure hidden on the Isle of Monte Cristo and he becomes determined not only to escape, but also to unearth the treasure and use it to plot the destruction of the three men responsible for his incarceration.

### **David Copperfield by Charles Dickens (L1340)**

*David Copperfield* is the story of a young man's adventures on his journey from an unhappy & impoverished childhood to the discovery of his vocation as a successful novelist. Among the gloriously vivid cast of characters he encounters are his tyrannical stepfather, Mr Murdstone; his formidable aunt, Betsey Trotwood; the eternally humble yet treacherous Uriah Heep; frivolous, enchanting Dora; & the magnificently impecunious Micawber, one of literature's great comic creations.

### **The Chosen by Chaim Potok (L970)**

Following a baseball game that nearly became a religious war, two Jewish boys become friends. Danny comes from the strict Hasidic sect that keeps him bound in centuries of orthodoxy. Reuven is brought up by a father patently aware of the twentieth century. Everything tries to destroy their friendship, but they use honesty with each other as a shield and it proves an impenetrable protection.

### **God's Secret Agents by Alice Hogge**

As historian Hogge points out in this sometimes dry and sometimes lively popular religious history, the impulse to return Catholicism to England in the latter part of the 16th century arose with the establishment of the Anglican Church. In the early days of her reign, Elizabeth instituted strict laws regarding church attendance and religious practice with punishments that included fines and death. By the time that James I ascended to the throne, persecution of Catholics had risen to such a pitch that a group of Catholic conspirators, including most famously Guy Fawkes, hatched a plot to blow up Parliament. Hogge provides a tantalizing glimpse into the lives of the priests—such as Edmund Campion, John Gerard and Henry Garnet—who made martyrs of themselves in their efforts to reinstate Catholicism in England. Hogge deftly narrates the seething world of religious conflict in late 16th- and early 17th-century England, as well as the intra-Catholic conflicts that arose in the face of persecutions by the throne. Anyone interested in vibrant details of the Gunpowder Plot will have to look elsewhere, since the event plays a small role in Hogge's book, but for a detailed sketch of the religious conflict that led to the plot, Hogge's book provides a starting point.

### **Lay Siege to Heaven: A Novel of St. Catherine of Siena by Louis de Wohl**

Continuing his popular series of novels about saints of the Church, de Wohl devotes his considerable talents to an interpretation of one of the most unusual women of all time, St. Catherine of Siena. The daughter of a prosperous dyer in 14th-century Siena, Catherine devoted her life to Christ, persuaded the Pope to move from Avignon to Rome, subdued the warring City-States of Italy, and changed the face of her world.

### **Kristen Lavransdatter by Sigrid Undset**

In her great historical epic *Kristin Lavransdatter*, set in fourteenth-century Norway, Nobel laureate Sigrid Undset tells the life story of one passionate and headstrong woman. Painting a richly detailed backdrop, Undset immerses readers in the day-to-day life, social conventions, and political and religious undercurrents of the period. As a young girl, Kristin is deeply devoted to her father, a kind and courageous man. But when as a student in a convent school she meets the charming and impetuous Erlend Nikulauss, she defies her parents in pursuit of her own desires. Her saga continues through her marriage to Erlend, their tumultuous life together raising seven sons as Erlend seeks to strengthen his political influence, and finally their estrangement as the world around them tumbles into uncertainty. With its captivating heroine and emotional potency, *Kristin Lavransdatter* is the masterwork of Norway's most beloved author—one of the twentieth century's most prodigious and engaged literary minds—and, in Nunnally's exquisite translation, a story that continues to enthrall.

### **Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw (L1340)**

A barbed attack on the British class system, *Pygmalion* both delighted and scandalized its first audiences in 1914. Henry Higgins is the Pygmalion figure who believes he can transform Eliza Doolittle, a cockney flower girl, into a duchess at ease in polite society. The one thing he overlooks is that his 'creation' has a mind of her own.

### **The Quiet Light (St. Thomas Aquinas) by Louis de Wohl**

Louis de Wohl presents a stimulating historical novel about the great St. Thomas, set against the violent background of the Italy during the Crusades. The author weaves an intricate tapestry of love, violence and piety as he brings the saint to life.

### **The Book Thief by Markus Zusak (L730)**

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel—a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

### **The Robe by Lloyd C. Douglas**

A Roman soldier, Marcellus, wins Christ's robe as a gambling prize. He then sets forth on a quest to find the truth about the Nazarene's robe—a quest that reaches to the very roots and heart of Christianity and is set against the vividly limned background of ancient Rome. Here is a timeless story of adventure, faith, and romance, a tale of spiritual longing and ultimate redemption.