



OMNIBUS SUMMER READING LIST | **7th Grade**

Reading is the gateway to knowledge. There is no more valuable learning activity. Our summer reading program is designed to encourage year-round immersion in literature.

We have provided the following summer reading lists to assist you in selecting the best literature available for you. The number of books is not as important as the quality of books and the time spent reading. Below are two categories of books you are asked to read from. The first is the Primary book list. You may choose to read one of these selections. The other is the Secondary book list. You must choose one of these but are free to read as many as you like.

Why is reading assigned over the summer? Reading keeps your scholarly muscles in shape, working out your brain by:

- * Building vocabulary
- * Improving spelling through word recognition
- * Focusing your thoughts
- * Introducing new people, places, ideas, and situations
- * Exposure to the time period we will be studying (Great Books From Ancient Times)

Please read your choices over the summer and be ready for a short comprehension evaluation (comprehension worksheet).

PRIMARY BOOKS

Choose one of the following:

1. Josephus: The Essential Works
2. Aesop's Fables

SECONDARY BOOKS

Choose one of the following:

1. The Robe by Lloyd C. Douglas
2. Ben Hur by Lew Wallace

⇒ *After reading, answer the questions in the associated packet for the books that you select*



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PRIMARY BOOKS

Choose one of the following:

1. Josephus: The Essential Works (The “Essential Works” is a condensed version of the Complete Works of Josephus)
 - Available from Mr. Garvin’s classroom or School Library
2. Aesop’s Fables
 - Available through the School Library

SECONDARY BOOKS

Choose one of the following

1. The Robe - Douglas, Lloyd C.
 - Audiobook available on Hoopla app
2. Ben Hur - Wallace, Lew
 - Available from Mr. Garvin’s classroom or School Library
 - <http://biblioteca.org.ar/libros/167715.pdf>
 - Full audio book available on YouTube or Audiobook available on Hoopla app



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SYNOPSIS OF THE BOOKS

PRIMARY BOOKS

Josephus: The Essential Works

Flavius Josephus (c. A.D. 37–100) was born to an aristocratic Jewish family, served as a priest, and later became the commander of Jewish forces in Galilee following the revolt against Rome that began A.D. 66. Captured by the Romans, Josephus spent his later life in Rome under the patronage of the Roman emperors where he composed his history of the Jewish people and his account of the Jewish war that led to the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in A.D. 70.

Aesop's Fables

Aesop's Fables is a collection of fables credited to Aesop, a slave and storyteller who lived in ancient Greece between 620 and 564 BCE. Of diverse origins, the stories associated with his name have descended to modern times through a number of sources and continue to be reinterpreted in different ways as well as artistic media.

SECONDARY BOOKS

The Robe by Lloyd C. Douglas

The Robe is a fictional story about what happened to the Roman, Marcellus, who won Jesus' robe at his crucifixion, and ends up joining the Christian religion, with help from his slave and friend, Demetrius.

Ben Hur by Lew Wallace

Ben-Hur is a story of a fictional hero named Judah Ben-Hur, a Jewish nobleman who was falsely accused and convicted of an attempted assassination of the Roman governor of Judaea and consequently enslaved by the Romans. The story's revenge plot becomes a story of compassion and forgiveness. After witnessing the Crucifixion, Judah recognizes that Christ's life stands for a goal quite different from revenge. Judah becomes Christian, inspired by love and the talk of keys to a kingdom greater than any on Earth. The novel concludes with Judah's decision to finance the Catacomb of San Calixto in Rome, where Christian martyrs are to be buried and venerated.



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The primary & secondary books we are reading in Omnibus I in 7th grade for the 2023-2024 year.

PRIMARY BOOKS - First Semester

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Gilgamesh
- Code of Hammurabi
- First and Second Samuel
- Odyssey
- Histories

SECONDARY BOOKS - First Semester

- The Magician's Nephew
- Chosen by God
- Till We Have Faces
- The Horse and His Boy
- Prince Caspian
- First and Second Kings
- The Last Battle
- Isaiah

PRIMARY BOOKS - Second Semester

- Oresteia (Aeschylus I)
- Theban Trilogy (Sophocles I)
- The Last Days of Socrates
- The Early History of Rome
- Romans
- Galatians
- Revelation

SECONDARY BOOKS - Second Semester

- Minor Prophets
- The Best Things in Life
- The Unaborted Socrates
- James
- The Eagle of the Ninth
- The Screwtape Letters



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Josephus: The Essential Works - answer 3 of the 4 questions (24 pts possible)

In *Josephus: The Essential Works*, Josephus adds some interesting details to the Biblical account of the story of Israel. Explain one of those details and how it enhances your understanding of the Bible *or* what kinds of questions come to mind because of this added information. (8 pts)

In *Josephus: The Essential Works*, Josephus writes about the history of Israel in between the end of the Old Testament (roughly 400s BC - Ezra/Nehemiah/Malachi) and the beginning of the New Testament. What new insights about the history of Israel did you gain in reading this section? (8 pts)



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Josephus records facts about the Roman emperors which enable us to know more about them, their political lives and their relation to the Jewish nation through their appointed leaders. Choose one of these emperors and describe the relationship between the Israelite people and Rome. (8 pts)

In paragraph form, describe your favorite scene from *Josephus*. (8 pts)



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Aesop's Fables Assessment - answer all 3 of the prompts (24 pts possible)

Pick a fable from Aesop's collection and write your own script for it. Keep in mind that, in theater, the story should be told in dialogue (conversation between two or more characters) and action (what the characters do). Make sure that each one of your characters in the scene has a reason (a motivation) for being in the scene. Complete this on a separate sheet of paper. (8 pts)

In paragraph form, using at least three examples from the reading, what is the difference between how Aesop portrays how to live rightly and how the Bible teaches us to live righteously. (8 pts)



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The gods of Aesop's fables are portrayed as all powerful; however, they also have human failings. In paragraph form, discuss the human traits of the gods as they relate to the characters in the fables. Use at least three examples from your reading. (8 pts)



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The Robe Assessment - answer 3 of the 4 questions (24 pts possible)

Describe Marcellus as the story begins. What are the personality traits that make him a good soldier? Will these translate to his being a good Christian? Why or why not? (8 pts)

What is the relationship between Marcellus and his family? What are the family connections to the government? (8 pts)



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(8 pts)

What is Lucia's attitude about slavery? How do those differ from her father's attitudes?

How does Demetrius get his first look at Jesus? What is his first impression? How does that impression grow/change as he learns more about Jesus? (8 pts)



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Ben Hur - answer 3 of the 4 questions (24 pts possible)

Early in the book, Judah Ben Hur decided to learn soldiering from Rome so eventually he can fight against Rome. Using two examples, describe how Ben Hur's attitude toward Rome develops over the course of the book. (8 pts)

Discuss how the author wrote the story (developed the plot) to bring Ben-Hur and Messala to more of an equal. (8 pts)



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Discuss the plot twist that ends Ben-Hur's plans to help Jesus establish His kingdom. (8 pts)

In paragraph form, describe your favorite scene from the book *Ben Hur*. (8 pts)