

Grades 9-12 Summer Reading

Theology

The brief summary you see below, was taken from:

<https://bookstore.wordonfire.org/products/a-grand-slam-for-god>

Burke Masters had the perfect game plan for his life: he was going to become a Major League Baseball player. As a star infielder for Mississippi State with a game-winning grand slam to help his team reach the College World Series, he was well on his way to the career of his dreams. But little did he know that his life-changing call would not be from a recruiter to join the Major Leagues—it would be from God to become a priest.

In this page-turning memoir, Fr. Burke takes readers on an intimate personal journey—from his childhood outside of Chicago, to his success in baseball, to his conversion to Catholicism, and finally, to his acceptance of his vocation. Amid severe doubt and personal loss, he learned to embrace his fundamental identity—not as an athlete, but as a beloved son of God and a spiritual father to God’s people. Fr. Burke’s story is a powerful reminder that God’s plan for us is so much greater than our own; that it fulfills our dreams in ways greater than we could have imagined; and that if we only have the courage to say yes, every moment is an opportunity for a grand slam for God.

All students will be required to complete the following assignment and hand it into their Theology teachers on the first day of classes.

Essay response: In a well-written, five-paragraph typed essay, respond to the prompts below. Hint: This should require at least two full pages to give adequate responses.

(12 Point, Times New Roman Font. Double Spaced, 1 inch margins)

Submitting written work using AI (Chat GPT, etc.) and presenting it as your own work, will result in a zero for this assignment. Further disciplinary consequences are at the discretion of the school administration.

Prompts

- In the first paragraph, provide a summary of the book.
- In the second paragraph, describe in some detail how Father Burke Masters recognized that his own choice to make baseball a career changed and why.
- In the third paragraph describe your understanding of “divine providence,” “grace,” “piety,” and listening for the voice of God.
- In the fourth paragraph, describe how you might see God working in your own life and the lives of people you know.
- In the fifth and final paragraph, summarize how reading this book impacted your view on how God might be pushing you in a direction you might not even see yet.

During the early part of the first marking period, you will engage in a group discussion on this book and what is presented. This will be at the direction of your theology teacher and will be a graded activity.

ENGLISH

Students in Pre-AP, Honors, and CP classes will complete the following work over the summer (AP Seminar and AP Language students will receive separate assignments). Each class has been assigned a book to read over the summer. Books, Google Classroom codes, and assignments for each class are listed below.

- Students (except freshmen) will submit responses to summer writing assignments in the Summer Reading Google Classroom for their grade . The questions are printed below, and may be found in the Google Classrooms listed below for sophomores, juniors and seniors. Responses are due by 8:00 am on the first day of classes.
- Following these activities, class time will be spent working with the book that was assigned. Students will be expected to have a physical copy of the book (paperback or hardcover) and participate in class discussions and activities. Following the unit of study, an additional assessment will be given.
- Rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors can access the Google Classroom dedicated to Summer Reading 2024 resources for their class using the codes listed below.

FRESHMAN PRE-AP & CP

All freshmen are encouraged to attend a Summer Reading Review Session. These sessions (approximately 90 minutes long) are designed to help students review the book and understand the expectations for their work. Registration is required. This year's sessions will be held at 10:30 am on August 15th and 21st.

Book: *The Other Wes Moore*, by Wes Moore

FRESHMAN SUMMER READING STUDY GUIDE

- *Discussion Questions:* Consult the discussion questions provided at the back of the book. Think about how you would answer each question if you were asked to write a short-answer response to them on a test. In particular, develop your thinking about Questions #1, 6, 9, and 11.
- *Structure:* What does the author do to indicate which parts of the book are about himself, and which parts are about the Other Wes Moore? Why does the author decide to emphasize certain years in their lives? Why does the author alternate their stories moment-by-moment?

- *Environment:* What are the environments surrounding each Wes Moore like? How do these environments change and/or remain the same? How do these environments affect them?
- *Mothers:* What does each mother do for her son? Is one mother “better” or more successful than the other? What factors seem to influence each mother’s ability to guide, protect, teach, and love her son?
- *Turning Points:* What seem to be the key moments in the life of each Wes Moore? What opportunities did they have to succeed or fail, and how did they respond to those opportunities?

IDEAS FOR TAKING NOTES

- List the names of the people important to each Wes Moore, along with a short description of how they are related to him, and/or what they mean to him.
- Construct a chart (like this) to keep track of what happens to each Wes Moore, and when. This exercise is helpful for seeing the similarities and differences in their experiences.

YEAR	AUTHOR WES MOORE	OTHER WES MOORE

SOPHOMORE HONORS & CP

Google Classroom Code: qpy37pj

Book: *The Last Lecture*, by Randy Pausch

ASSIGNMENT

Your answers to the following questions are due on the first day of class at 8:00am in the Summer Reading Google Classroom. Each response should be 1-2 paragraphs, and include evidence from the text to support your claims.

At the beginning of Part II, the author makes a list of his childhood dreams. What do those dreams, and their fulfillment, tell you about the kind of person he is?

List your own childhood dreams. Which ones are you still working on? Which ones are you willing to keep working on until they are realized?

In Chapter 23, the author gives time management advice, including, “Ask yourself: Are you spending your time on the right things?” What percentage of your time do you think you are spending on the “right things?” What steps could you take to increase that percentage?

JUNIOR HONORS & CP

Google Classroom Code: u2brsrn

Book: *The Work*, by Wes Moore

ASSIGNMENT

Your answers to the following questions are due on the first day of class at 8:00am in the Summer Reading Google Classroom. Each response should be 1-2 paragraphs, and include evidence from the text to support your claims.

For each chapter of the book, the author includes a profile of and interview with someone who exemplifies the qualities addressed in that chapter. What characteristics do all of these people seem to have in common?

In Chapter 5, the author describes working on the “passion project” that turned into *The Other Wes Moore*. How, and why, does that effort change the shape of Wes’s future?

The epigraph of the book is a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr: “Everybody can be great. Because everybody can serve.” Why do you think the author chose this, and what does it suggest about the message of the book as a whole?

SENIOR HONORS & CP

Google Classroom Code: pk52hya

Book: *The Midnight Library*, by Matt Haig

ASSIGNMENT

Answers to these questions are due in the Summer Reading Google Classroom by 8:00 am on the first day of school. Each response should be 1-2 paragraphs, and include evidence from the text to support your argument.

Which of Nora’s lives sounds most appealing to you, and why?

As Nora tries different lives, she is able to eliminate regrets from her past. Why does this happen, and what might she (or anyone) learn about the role of regret in our lives from what happens to her?

If you could design a different life for yourself, what would it look like? What would be different, and what would remain the same?