



PERIMETER SCHOOL
A Covenant Christian Community

Rising Eighth Grade Summer Reading Assignment

This year, rising eighth graders are required to read *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. This book marks a change in our summer reading from past years, and I am excited to study this classic with the students! Everyone will receive a copy of the book for the summer reading. Please do **not** ever use Spark notes or other study notes to read a book. According to our school policy, these materials are not allowed, as they encourage our students to rely on someone else's thinking rather than developing their own critical thinking skills. Reading and annotation of this novel must be completed by the **first day of school – Monday, August 12th**.

Required annotating means marking in the book by **highlighting and making notes in the margins**, such as questions or comments, depending upon what students think is important as they read. Keep the following requirements in mind:

- Students should look for evidence of literary devices, such as characterization, themes, imagery, setting, figurative language, sound devices, etc.
- Students need to circle or highlight all sophisticated vocabulary words. If students cannot figure out the meaning of the word based upon the context used, then individuals are expected to look up these words in the dictionary in order to properly understand the meaning, as used in the writing.
- Remember that not every page has to have annotating on it, but whole chapters should not be without annotations.
- Annotate important reading details. Do **not** highlight too much! It is difficult to tell what is important when too many passages are highlighted.
- The notes in the margins should be brief phrases or questions. Feel free to abbreviate names, etc. Pay close attention to significant quotes.
- Include a character list at the beginning or end of the book. List characters and give a brief description of each.

Readers actively **engage** with the book when they annotate well. (I liken annotating to a student having a conversation with the book itself.) Annotating is an **expected** skill that we will exercise with every book we read in the eighth grade; this is a **critical** skill! Additionally, I conduct annotation checks periodically throughout the school year.

Lastly, students will be tested on the content of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, upon their return to school after the summer break. I suggest the students read the book later in the summer so that the information from the book is fresher on their minds. Then, students should review their annotations prior to the first day of school.