

# Savannah Classical Academy Summer Reading Requirements

## Rising Eighth Graders

1. Poem memorization. Memorize “Do not go gentle into that good night” by Dylan Thomas. Be ready to recite by the first day of school.
2. Choose any TWO books from the list below. You can find books on Amazon, at bookstores, or at the public library. Be ready to write about each book by the first day of school.

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Choose TWO of the following books:

### *The Giver* by Lois Lowry

Jonas's world is perfect. Everything is under control. There is no war or fear of pain. There are no choices. Every person is assigned a role in the community.

December is the time of the annual Ceremony at which each twelve-year-old receives a life assignment determined by the Elders. Jonas watches his friend Fiona named Caretaker of the Old and his cheerful pal Asher labeled the Assistant Director of Recreation.

But Jonas has been chosen for something special. When his selection leads him to an unnamed man — the man called only the Giver — he begins to sense the dark secrets that underlie the fragile perfection of his world.

The Giver, the 1994 Newbery Medal winner, has become one of the most influential novels of our time. Lexile: 760

### *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson

Jacqueline Woodson, one of today's finest writers, tells the moving story of her childhood in mesmerizing verse. Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Lexile: 990

### *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

Sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous, *The House on Mango Street* tells the story of Esperanza Cordero, whose neighborhood is one of harsh realities and harsh beauty. Esperanza doesn't want to belong — not to her rundown neighborhood, and not to the low expectations the world has for her. Esperanza's story is that of a young girl coming into her power, and inventing for herself what she will become. Lexile: 870

### *1984* by George Orwell

In a grim city and a terrifying country, where Big Brother is always Watching You and the Thought Police can practically read your mind, Winston is a man in grave danger for the simple reason that his memory still functions. He knows the Party's official image of the world is a fluid fiction. He knows the Party controls the people by feeding them lies and narrowing their imaginations through a process of bewilderment and brutalization that alienates each individual and deprives him of every liberating human pursuit. Drawn into a forbidden love affair, Winston finds the courage to join a secret revolutionary organization called The Brotherhood, dedicated to the destruction of the Party. Together with his beloved Julia, he hazards his life in a deadly match against the powers that be.

Newspeak, doublethink, thoughtcrime--in *1984*, George Orwell created a whole vocabulary of words concerning totalitarian control that have since passed into our common vocabulary. More importantly, he has portrayed a chillingly credible dystopia. Lexile: 1090

### *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque

The testament of Paul Baumer, who enlists with his classmates in the German army of World War I, illuminates the savagery and futility of war. This book is a classic.

Remarque was born in Germany. He was drafted into the German army during World War I. Lexile: 830

*Fallen Angels* by Walter Dean Myers.

Richie Perry was seventeen and in trouble. He hadn't really given the army too much thought. It was enough that it would give him something to do and three meals a day. He just wanted to cool out till he got himself together. Basic training wasn't so hard. But there were things they didn't tell him in basic.

They didn't tell him about Nam Rot, or napalm that sucked the air out of your lungs from a hundred yards away, or the body bags that lay in neat piles, ready for the next soldier to die. They didn't tell him how it felt to shoot at Vietnamese soldiers no older than you were, and just as afraid.

*Fallen Angels* has won the Coretta Scott King Award, an ALA Best Book for Young Adults, a Booklist Editors Choice, and a School Library Journal Best Book. It has also been controversial. It was #16 on the American Library Association's list of the most frequently challenged books of 1990–2000 for its realistic depiction of war and those who fight in war. Lexile: 650

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## Do not go gentle into that good night

Dylan Thomas, 1914 – 1953

Do not go gentle into that good night,  
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Though wise men at their end know dark is right,  
Because their words had forked no lightning they  
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright  
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,  
And learn, too late, they grieved it on its way,  
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight  
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

And you, my father, there on the sad height,  
Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray.  
Do not go gentle into that good night.  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.