

Elizabeth Barrett Browning stated, “No man can be called friendless who has God and the companionship of good books.” At HCS, we endeavor to foster a life-long love of learning in our students and to challenge them to think critically. Most importantly, we aim to equip them in their personal faith and help cultivate the characteristics that will allow them to live out God’s calling on their lives. These goals for our students present a strong correlation to reading and expanding the mind through the power of stories. Jesus himself was a master storyteller, using parables to challenge, exhort, rebuke, and equip those around him. In our students, we hope to promote a thorough appreciation of all genres of literature and a desire to pursue knowledge for life. With that, it is vital for them to learn to distinguish between good literature and content (that which draws our focus to all things good: Philippians 4:8) and anything otherwise. At Hamilton, we encourage our students to think for themselves and question ideas under our tutelage. In partnership with you, we have the privilege of supporting them together as they learn from their mistakes and grow as individuals. We are not only investing in our students for their time at Hamilton, but more so for their futures and their eternity.

Our hope is that implementing a rigorous curriculum immersed in literature, coupled with discussions that foster critical thinking, will play a part in accomplishing these goals for our students. From grades 1-12, HCS students will be exposed to a broad array of literature-classics, epics, prose, and poetry from old and new authors. The required reading chart below is in addition to the scope of the literature curriculum and books read for AR (accelerated reader). At the end of each 9 weeks, students will complete capstone projects on these novels. **Books in bold are required to be obtained by parents/guardians.** All other books will be provided by HCS.

Requirements per grade, per nine weeks are listed below (All books are the unabridged version unless specified):

Title	Author	Grade Level	9 Weeks
Flat Stanley	Jeff Brown	1st	1st
Mr. Popper's Penguins	Florence & Richard Atwater	1st	2nd
Stuart Little	E.B. White	1st	3rd
James and the Giant Peach	Roald Dahl	1st	4th
Charlotte’s Web	E.B. White	2nd	1st
The Treasure of Pelican Cove	Milly Howard	2nd	2nd
Pulling Together	Dawn L. Watkins	2nd	3rd
The Boxcar Children	Gertrude Chandler Warner	2nd	4th
Frindle	Andrew Clements	3rd	1st
Pilgrim’s Progress	John Bunyan	3rd	2nd
The One and Only Ivan	Katherine Applegate	3rd	3rd
The One and Only Bob	Katherine Applegate	3rd	4th
Tales of a 4th Grade Nothing	Judy Blume	4th	1st
Sarah Plain & Tall	Patricia MacLachlan	4th	2nd
Because of Winn Dixie	Kate DiCamillo	4th	2nd

Medallion	Dawn L. Watkins	4th	3rd
The Lion, Witch, & the Wardrobe	C.S. Lewis	4th	4th
Wonder	R.J. Palacio	5th	1st
Old Yeller	Fred Gipson	5th	2nd
Where the Red Fern Grows	Wilson Rawls	5th	2nd
Anne of Green Gables	L.M. Montgomery	5th	3rd
The Horse and His Boy	C.S. Lewis	5th	4th
Tuck Everlasting	Natalie Babbitt	6th	1st
Black Beauty	Anna Sewell	6th	2nd
Number the Stars	Lois Lowry	6th	3rd
Hatchet	Gary Paulsen	6th	4th
A Wrinkle in Time	Madeleine L'Engle	7th	1st
A Christmas Carol	Charles Dickens	7th	2nd
Roll of Thunder Hear Me Cry	Mildred D. Taylor	7th	3rd
Adventures of Tom Sawyer	Mark Twain	7th	4th
Little Women	Louisa May Alcott	7th	4th
Flowers for Algernon	Daniel Keyes	8th	1st
The Hiding Place	Corrie Ten Boom	8th	2nd
Beowulf	Unknown	8th	3rd
Tell Tale Heart	Edgar Allan Poe	8th	3rd
Huckleberry Finn	Mark Twain	8th	4th
Fahrenheit 451	Ray Bradbury	English I	1st
The Narrative: Frederick Douglas	Frederick Douglas	English I	2nd
To Kill a Mockingbird	Harper Lee	English I	3rd
Great Expectations	Charles Dickens	English I	4th
The Hobbit	J.R.R. Tolkien	English II	1st
Uncle Tom's Cabin	Harriet Beecher Stowe	English II	2nd
Macbeth & Hamlet	William Shakespeare	English II	3rd
Tale of Two Cities	Charles Dickens	English II	4th
Scarlet Letter	Nathaniel Hawthorne	English III	1st
The Great Gatsby	F. Scott Fitzgerald	English III	2nd
The Iliad	Homer	English III	3rd
The Odyssey	Homer	English III	4th
Pride & Prejudice	Jane Austen	English IV	1st
Pilgrim's Progress	John Bunyan	English IV	2nd
Canterbury Tales	Geoffrey Chaucer	English IV	3rd/4th