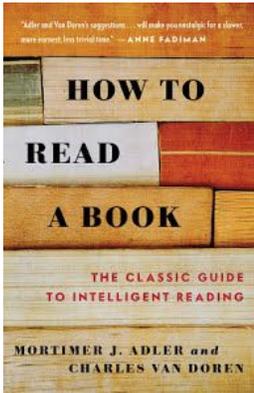
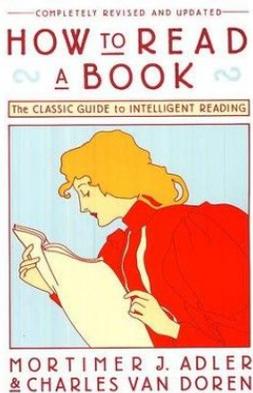


# Required Summer Reading & Writing

Summer is an excellent opportunity for discovery and experience. What can be one of the most memorable, most delightful, and important activities a person can engage in during this unique time is the classic summer reading project. The summer reading project has long been a staple at Southwest High School -- as well as assigned by this country's great universities -- inspiring generations of students along the way. This summer we have chosen for you two readings: a life-changing book and a poem written by a teenager. The assignment also requires some writing. Please follow the instructions below.

Teachers: [Thomas\\_J.Johnson@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:Thomas_J.Johnson@mpls.k12.mn.us) and [Daniel.Ferris@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:Daniel.Ferris@mpls.k12.mn.us)

<p><i>How To Read A Book</i> By Mortimer J. Adler &amp; Charles Van Doren</p>	<p>Description</p>
<p>Same book; two recent book covers.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>(426 pages)</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>(426 pages)</p> </div> </div> <p>Link to an online PDF version:  <a href="http://mathscinotes.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Adler-Mortimer-How-To-Read-A-Book.pdf">http://mathscinotes.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Adler-Mortimer-How-To-Read-A-Book.pdf</a></p>	<p>This is a nonfiction book that will change the way you read books for the rest of your life. I first read this book early in my college career. After I read this book, I never received less than an "A" grade in any college class I have taken since. This book shows you how to not just "read" a book, but to absorb and possess the material at a much deeper level intellectually. The book tackles how to become a much better reader overall, but it also explains how to read a variety of books, from science, to history, to literature, including poems and novels. It's hard to imagine a more perfect book developmentally for high school students who are moving on from their sophomore years to their junior years than this one. Good luck, and make sure you read this book very carefully, but more importantly, act on what you learn and apply the lessons to your own lifelong education. The book is easy to acquire through any bookseller, and many used copies are out there. You can also find a PDF of the text online.--T.J.</p>

## WRITING ASSIGNMENT #1

After reading *How To Read A Book*, write at least a one-page response to this prompt:

***Pretend you are a high school English teacher. Design a lesson based on what you learned from How To Read a Book. Describe what you would teach, how you would teach it, and what you would want your students to learn from your lesson. What are some creative ways to engage students in the lessons of the book so that they learn it for life? Include all of this in a descriptive essay using a first person narrator.***

- Essay must quote directly from the texts citing page numbers and be typed and single spaced.
- Essay will be used by each individual student during an in-class discussion during the first weeks of school and then collected by the teacher for credit.
- It is highly recommended that students also complete the exercises included in the back of the book. Have your parents or a friend check your work.

## Reading and Writing Assignment #2

Poem: "The Lotos-eaters" By Alfred, Lord Tennyson	Description
 <p><b>Short Excerpt:</b></p> <p>The Lotos-eaters BY ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON</p> <p>"Courage!" he said, and pointed toward the land, "This mounting wave will roll us shoreward soon." In the afternoon they came unto a land In which it seemed always afternoon. All round the coast the languid air did swoon, Breathing like one that hath a weary dream. Full-faced above the valley stood the moon; And like a downward smoke, the slender stream Along the cliff to fall and pause and fall did seem.</p> <p>A land of streams! some, like a downward smoke, Slow-dropping veils of thinnest lawn, did go; And some thro' wavering lights and shadows broke, Rolling a slumbrous sheet of foam below. They saw the gleaming river seaward flow From the inner land: far off, three mountain-tops, Three silent pinnacles of aged snow, Stood sunset-flush'd: and, dew'd with showery drops, Up-clomb the shadowy pine above the woven copse...[continued!]</p> <p>[Not the complete poem! The poem is much longer--you will need to find it at the library, online, or at a bookstore.]</p>	<p>This poem was written by a teenager and originally published in 1832. Understand the poem in a literal way before you attempt to impose an analysis or interpretation on the lines.</p>

## Writing Assignment #2

After reading the entire version of the poem "The Lotos-eaters," by Alfred, Lord Tennyson, write at least a one-page response to this prompt:

**Apply the reading methods from *How to Read a Book* to the poem "The Lotos-eaters" and answer the following questions: What is the main theme and the overall meaning of the poem? Explain the methods from the book you used to analyze the poem. How did the methods help you to understand the poem in a deeper way?**

- Essay must quote directly from the texts, citing page numbers and be typed and single spaced.
- Essay will be used by each individual student during an in-class discussion during the first weeks of school and then collected by the teacher for credit.