

Year 7 Reading List Options: Biblical Studies and Geoffrey Chaucer

Modern –

The Canterbury Tales: A retelling – Peter Ackroyd (2010) (464 Pages)

On a pilgrimage to Canterbury, a group of travellers agree to a storytelling competition. As they make their way on the road, they drink, laugh, flirt, argue and try to outdo each other with their tales. From the exuberant Wife of Bath's Arthurian legend to the Miller's worldly, ribald farce, these tales can be taken as a mirror of fourteenth-century London.

Incorporating every style of medieval narrative - bawdy anecdote, allegorical fable and courtly romance - the tales encompass a blend of universal human themes.

Biblical Literacy: The Essential Bible Stories Everyone Needs to Know – Timothy Beal (2010) (368 Pages)

A one-stop course in the Bible passages and background information that everyone needs to know to navigate our nuanced cultural landscape—from devout believers to decided atheists, average citizens to pop-culture aficionados. Beal's *Biblical Literacy* is a must-have handbook for understanding today's world.

Eve and Adam – Michael Grant and Katherine Applegate (2012) (320 Pages)

Love has never had much of a place in the life of Evening Spiker. But being the daughter of a billionaire genetic scientist has other perks. Like a private hospital where you can recover from near-fatal road accidents. And a hot surfer boy to push your wheelchair. While Eve is healing, her mother sets her an unexpected challenge: to use a cutting-edge virtual reality system to design the perfect boy; everything from the colour of his eyes to the level of his IQ. It's the chance of a lifetime. The chance to play God . . . or is it more than just playing?

Classics –

The Hobbit – J. R. R. Tolkien (1937) (355 Pages)

Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely travelling further than the pantry of his hobbit-hole in Bag End. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard, Gandalf, and a company of thirteen dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on an unexpected journey 'there and back again'. They have a plot to raid the treasure hoard of Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon.

The Lord of the Rings Trilogy – J. R. R. Tolkien (1954) (1178 Pages)

Continuing the story begun in *The Hobbit*, Sauron, the Dark Lord, has gathered to him all the Rings of Power – the means by which he intends to rule Middle-earth. All he lacks in his plans for dominion is the One Ring – the ring that rules them all – which has fallen into the hands of the hobbit, Bilbo Baggins.

In a sleepy village in the Shire, young Frodo Baggins finds himself faced with an immense task, as the Ring is entrusted to his care. He must leave his home and make a perilous

journey across the realms of Middle-earth to the Crack of Doom, deep inside the territories of the Dark Lord. There he must destroy the Ring forever and foil the Dark Lord in his evil purpose.

The Chronicles of Narnia – C. S. Lewis (1950-1965)

The Chronicles of Narnia is a series of seven fantasy novels. The series is set in the fictional realm of Narnia, a fantasy world of magic, mythical beasts and talking animals. It narrates the adventures of various children who play central roles in the unfolding history of the Narnian world. Except in *The Horse and His Boy*, the protagonists are all children from the real world who are magically transported to Narnia, where they are sometimes called upon by the lion Aslan to protect Narnia from evil. The books span the entire history of Narnia, from its creation in *The Magician's Nephew* to its eventual destruction in *The Last Battle*.

The Canterbury Tales: An Interlinear Translation – Andrew Galloway (2012) (576 Pages)

The Canterbury Tales is among the earliest of the great narrative poems written in the English language. The Canterbury Tales is a set of stories that a diverse group of travellers tell one another at the end of each day. They had set off by foot on a religious pilgrimage from the Tabard Inn in London to the shrine of St. Thomas à Becket in England's cathedral town of Canterbury. This volume opens with Chaucer's own famous Prologue, and then presents the best among those many tales, which demonstrate Chaucer's skill in portraying a wide range of very different personalities. For instance, we meet the religiously pious but haughty Prioress, the comically bawdy Miller, and the genially earthy Wife of Bath, among many others.

Further Research –

Geoffrey Chaucer –



Geoffrey Chaucer was an English poet, author, and civil servant best known for *The Canterbury Tales*. He has been called the "father of English literature", or, alternatively, the "father of English poetry". He was the first writer to be buried in what has since come to be called Poets' Corner, in Westminster Abbey. Chaucer also gained fame as a philosopher and astronomer, composing the scientific *A Treatise on the Astrolabe* for his 10-year-old son Lewis. He maintained a career in the civil service as a bureaucrat, courtier, diplomat, and member of parliament.



The Lord of the Rings is a series of three epic fantasy adventure films directed by Peter Jackson, based on the novel written by J. R. R. Tolkien. The films are subtitled *The Fellowship of the Ring* (2001), *The Two Towers* (2002), and *The Return of the King* (2003). Set in the fictional world of Middle-earth, the films follow the hobbit Frodo Baggins as he and the Fellowship embark on a quest to destroy the One Ring, to ensure the destruction of its maker, the Dark Lord Sauron. The Fellowship eventually splits up and Frodo continues the quest with his loyal companion Sam and the treacherous Gollum. Meanwhile, Aragorn, heir in exile to the throne of Gondor, along with Legolas, Gimli, Boromir, Merry, Pippin and the wizard Gandalf, unite to save the Free Peoples of Middle-earth from the forces of Sauron and rally them in the War of the Ring to aid Frodo by distracting Sauron's attention.