

**Holy Cross High School  
College English  
Summer Reading Assignment**

As part of the educational program at Holy Cross High School, **all students who are entering College English in September 2022 must read the following three books:**

*A Brief History of Time* by Stephen Hawking  
*The Screwtape Letters* - C.S. Lewis  
*Shakespeare - The World As Stage* by Bill Bryson

There are three basic reasons for this activity:

- a) to improve reading skills
- b) to increase the student's knowledge base
- c) to prepare students for their English teacher's first quarter discussions

Please note:

- All students hand in the required work on the first day of class. The ensuing classwork and class discussions will incorporate explicit elements of theme and author intention, so students should take responsible and thorough notes on the texts while they are reading.
- The Summer Reading books will comprise most of the writing and discussions for the first quarter. Students must be familiar with the themes and rhetoric in order to do well in the first quarter of the course.
- The above texts all cover the breadth of contextual and thematic elements that all courses and electives have in common. Readers should pay particular attention to the authors' execution of genre expectations and detail.

In a [separate doc](#), write a 1-2 paragraph summary of the three books. Include only the most important ideas in your summaries. This work will be collected on the first day of class.