

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 must read the following three books:**

A Brief History of Time by Stephen Hawking
The Screwtape Letters by 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 each of the three books. Include only the most important ideas in your summaries. This work will be collected on the first day of class.

