

# Summer Reading Assignment for Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

**Fall 2025**

Reading outside the classroom is an essential ingredient in academic success. For this reason, we are committed to a summer reading program at Grace Community School. The summer reading program is designed to provide opportunities to extend the skills developed during the previous year's instruction. Reading is an essential life skill; therefore, it is imperative to increase abilities in reading and comprehension rather than recover skills lost over the summer months. The summer reading selection is intended to challenge you to extend your abilities beyond what you would normally choose to read. According to the summer reading book, *Do Hard Things*, parents play a role in the author's philosophy to push their children to embrace challenges and pursue excellence. This book provides the framework for just that.

## Summer Reading Guidelines:

- Summer reading is a required assignment.
- The signed form documenting completion of summer reading is **due on Monday, August 18.**
- You are required to read **one** book, a spiritual emphasis book, *Do Hard Things: A Teenage Rebellion Against Low Expectations* by Alex and Brett Harris (Paperback version with Appendix A-D)

\*Available on Amazon for \$9.99

1. You will complete a "Passage Journal" for the spiritual emphasis book (see "Passage Journal" assignment page) for a test grade. The journal is **due Monday, August 18.**
2. You will take a quiz (multiple choice and short answer) over the book on **Monday, August 18. Quiz Review attached!**
3. You will give an oral report to the class on **one** of your "Passage Journal" entries during the first full week of school.
4. During the first quarter, we will be engaging in class discussions and writing paragraphs on topics discussed in this book, so it is imperative that you read the book in its entirety.

## **“Passage Journal”**

1. While reading, choose a passage from every chapter that impacts you in one of the following ways:
  - a) Made you see something in a different light
  - b) Helped you understand something
  - c) Called me to action
  - d) Prompted me to re-evaluate my spiritual walk and to change my behavior or attitude toward something
  - e) Supported an idea you already had
  - f) Cause you to live that moment with the author
  - g) Reminded you of a time in your life

**\*(you must use all of the above at least once)**
2. On a separate piece of paper for each chapter, write the chapter # and chapter title.
3. Then, copy the passage (word-for-word). Please make sure you write legibly, or you may type the journal if you choose.
4. Cite the page where the passage was found.
5. Note how the passage impacted you according to the 7 ways above.
6. Then give three to five bullet points **with specific examples** as to how the passage impacted your life.

### **EXAMPLE:**

Chapter 2 “Expired Milk”

Passage: “But it made me think about rotten, expired milk. You see, expiration dates are on almost everything, just like milk. Almost everything on this earth will one day be gone. My dog, my house, my computer, my iPod, my basketball, even my cell phone (especially when I forget to take it out of my pocket and it goes through the wash...twice).”

(page 15-16)

Prompted me to re-evaluate my spiritual walk and to change my behavior or attitude toward something

Impact:

- I realized how often I am consumed with material things that will not last forever
- I thought about what the Bible says about storing up treasures in heaven
- I need to shift my focus to things the Bible says are eternal. The souls of people matter more than material possessions.
- I was reminded of how what I think is a must-have today will be out of date within a year or so. Hebrews 13:8 tells me Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

7. You **must** follow the format in the example above.
8. Cover sheet should include your name, date, the title of the assigned book (underlined or *italicized*) and the author’s name.
9. Place the cover sheet and 12 journal entries in a clear essay cover.

Do Hard Things: A Teenage Rebellion Against Low Expectations

Quiz Review

What is the central message of Do Hard Things?

What is meant by the term “rebelution?”

What does the term “low expectations mean?”

What is an example of a hard thing teenagers can do, as described by the book?

Chapter 1 - Know the story of the Dundress Monks.

Chapter 3 - Know the story of the elephant in India and why it doesn't try to break free when shackled by nothing but a piece of twine.

Chapter 4 - What is a kidult? What things did George Washington and Clara Barton accomplish in their early years?

Chapter 6 - What do the authors say about the statement “just do your best?”

Chapter 9 - What is the definition of conscience? Explain the Navajo Indian tradition that compares your conscience to a small triangle.

Chapter 10 - What do the authors reveal about being the “salt of the earth?”

\*These are a few topics that could be on the quiz. It is necessary to read the book in its entirety!

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**Parents, please complete the information below**

**and return this form by Monday, August 18.**

My Child \_\_\_\_\_, read Do Hard Things: A Teenage Rebellion Against Low Expectations, by Alex and Brett Harris, for their required spiritual emphasis reading.

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**Parent Signature**