



How to Read A Book

Summer 2019



GENERAL INFORMATION

Class Dates: M/W in July (8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31)

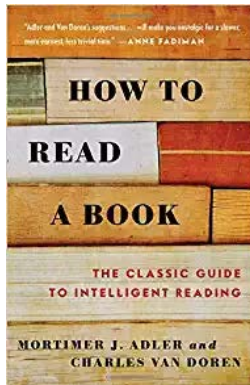
Class Times: 11:30am-12:30pm EST

Instructor: Adam Lockridge

E-mail: alockridge@scholeacademy.com

COURSE TEXT: *How to Read a Book*, by Mortimer Adler and Charles Van Doren

DESCRIPTION



The Upper School Study Skills summer book club will help students prepare for yearlong courses in the humanities (History, Literature, Great Books). The editor of the famous series *Great Books of the Western World*, Mortimer Adler, authored the best-selling *How to Read a Book* as a companion to reading the classics. In his “classic guide to intelligent reading,” Adler laments that formal reading instruction is often limited to basic literacy skills which are mastered by the sixth grade. This modern educational paradigm leaves students with a limited set of reading skills.

In addition to elementary reading, skillful readers learn inspectional reading, analytical reading, and syntopical reading. Students in this summer reading group will read selections from *How to Read a Book*; in class we will practice together the skills presented in the book using selections from *The Great Books of the Western World*. In this manner, students will become better prepared to tackle the wide variety of genres that they will meet in their courses—imaginative literature, poems, plays, history, philosophy, and more.

OUTLINE

PRIOR TO START: PART 1, DIMENSIONS OF READING

WEEK 1: PART 2A, ANALYTICAL READING

WEEK 2: PART 2B, ANALYTICAL READING

WEEK 3: PART 3, DIFFERENT KINDS OF READING

WEEK 4: PART 4, GOALS OF READING

Technology

Live meetings will take place using a video conferencing app called **Zoom** (www.zoom.us). Please download the free app from their website. Students will need access to a webcam, microphone, and a strong internet connection. All other course communication will happen on **Schoology** (www.schoology.com), a user-friendly learning management system. Students will receive a registration link the week before the beginning of the class.

Expectations

Summer Reading Groups are less formal than a yearlong course, but students are still expected to participate and come to our meetings prepared for the discussion. Other short assignments and optional readings may be given (less than 20 minutes additional prep), but the bulk of the expectation will be to simply read the book (~350 pages, ~70 pages per week for 5 weeks). Students may be asked to report on their reading at the beginning of the session. The usual standards of academic integrity apply (see Scholé Academy Student Handbook).

About the Teacher

Adam lives in rural Kansas where he and his wife homeschool their three children. Adam studied Philosophy at the University of Kansas and received his MA in Philosophy from the University of Memphis. As a philosophy student, Adam was most interested in the history of philosophy. Over the past ten years, Adam has taught a variety of subjects in 5th-12th grades, mostly in the humanities. His study of philosophy taught him the joy of carefully reading old books and gave him a Socratic paradigm for in-class discussion—two essential components of his teaching style.

While teaching is one of Adam's favorite activities, he has a variety of interests which help remind him that, although "the unexamined life is not worth living," it is also true that the "unlived life is not worth examining." Thus, he tries to pull his nose out of a book (or away from the computer) long enough to take his wife to a concert, read to his children, go on a walk with his dog Buck, mow the churchyard, fix something that is broken, or otherwise hold back the forces of primordial Chaos.

