

General Information

Class Dates: M/W in July (6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27)

Class Times: 10:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m. EST

Instructor: Adam Lockridge

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Course Text: *How to Read a Book* by Mortimer Adler and Charles Van Doren

Description

The Upper-School Scholarship Skills summer course will have a dual focus on advanced reading and productivity skills.

Advanced Reading Skills

Formal reading instruction is often limited to basic literacy skills, which are frequently mastered by 6th grade. In addition to elementary reading (“decoding”) skills, students need to develop inspectional, analytical, and synoptical reading skills. In this summer course, we will practice together the skills presented in *How to Read a 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 texts that they will encounter in their courses: textbooks, nonfiction, novels, poems, plays, histories, essays, and more.

Productivity Skills

I have personally benefited from many books and productivity strategies, and I don’t think there is one perfect system that fits every person. Rather than requiring students to follow a specific system, I will offer basic principles and suggest ways that students can adapt them to their preferences and life situations. These will include strategies for how to:

- ☐ Budget time
- ☐ Maintain a calendar
- ☐ Keep a log or journal
- ☐ Manage complex projects
- ☐ Create and update task lists
- ☐ Plan days, weeks, months, years, and beyond
- ☐ Track habits

- Establish routines

Expectations

Summer Reading Groups are less formal than yearlong courses, but students are still expected to participate and come to our meetings prepared. While there will be some reading assignments from *How to Read a Book*, it is a long book and we won't read it cover to cover. Much of the work in the course will be hands-on practice in reading skills and productivity.

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 yard, fix something that is broken, or otherwise hold back the forces of primordial Chaos.