

Renaissance Reader List (Middle School)

In our pursuit to build signature programs aligned with our mission, we look forward to introducing the Renaissance Reading Scholar Program for the 2023-24 school year. The program encourages students to read rigorous, intellectually challenging literature, often, but not limited to, literary classics. These will be titles our teachers feel are important for students to have read before high school or college. This list is also informed by the Advanced Placement reading list and past Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winners. The Renaissance Reading Scholar Program began at Norfolk Academy, under the guidance of then Head of School, Dennis Manning. At Wilson Hall, we have slightly altered the program to fit our community and school mission.

Below are 12 book selections and sponsors. Students may choose six or more titles and discuss them with the faculty or staff sponsor. The meeting with the sponsor should reveal that the student understands the reading and can engage in an intellectual discussion. Students will not receive credit for the book until the sponsor confirms they have an adequate understanding of the selection. *Students may begin reading this summer, but the faculty meeting should be scheduled during the academic year.*

Students who complete at least six books will be recognized each year as Renaissance Readers. Students that complete three years in Middle School will be honored and recognized as Renaissance Scholars during Awards Day of their 8th-grade year.

2023-2024 List:

Book Title/Author	Sponsor
<i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i> , Wilson Rawls (1961)	Mrs. Hayes Jones, Librarian
<i>Pilgrim's Progress</i> , John Bunyan (1678)	Mrs. Adelaide Spencer, Director of Administration
<i>A Christmas Carol</i> , Charles Dickens (1843)	Mrs. Patricia Moseley, Adjunct Faculty
<i>Jane Eyre</i> , Charlotte Brontë (1847)	Mrs. Susan Barfield, Academic Dean
<i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> , Erich Maria Remarque (1928)	Mr. George Carruth, Social Studies Teacher, Theater Director

<i>Little Women</i> , Louisa May Alcott (1868)	Mrs. Martha Jo Johnson, Assistant Director of Development
<i>Treasure Island</i> , Robert Louis Stevenson (1883)	Mr. Rip Ripley, Assistant Athletic Director, PE Teacher
<i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i> , Betty Smith (1943)	Mrs. Frances James, Fifth- Grade Teacher
<i>Holes</i> , Louis Sachar (1998)	Ms. Heather Eldridge, Composition and Study Skills Teacher
The Chronicles of Narnia (<i>The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe</i> , 1950, AND <i>Prince Caspian</i> , 1951)	Mrs. Jana Jackson, Kindergarten Instructional Assistant
<i>Anne of Green Gables</i> , L.M. Montgomery (1908)	Mrs. Mandy Beasley, Preschool 4 Teacher
<i>Robinson Crusoe</i> , Daniel Defoe (1719)	Mr. Lee Gandy, Head of Middle School