

Summer Enrichment Opportunities

Feeling the summer doldrums? We asked our teachers to recommend some of their favorite books, music, podcasts, documentaries, and activities to help fill your summer with true leisure: the learning, growth, depth, and enrichment that are characteristic of a fully happy, fully human life.

Read: Middle School and Up

- Tolkien: The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings Trilogy
- Paulsen: Hatchet
- The Brothers Grimm: Stories
- Collodi: The Adventures of Pinocchio
- Bradbury: Short Stories
- Twain: A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court
- MacDonald: The Light Princess
- Alexander: The Chronicles of Prydain

Read: High School

- Cervantes: Don Quixote
- Frankl: Man's Search for Meaning
- Tehillim: Psalms of King David
- O'Connor: A Good Man is Hard to Find (and other short stories)
- Chesterton: The Ballad of the White Horse
- Wilde: Lady Windemere's Fan

Listen

- Podcast. [The History of Rome](#)
- Podcast. [The Brothers Grimm Lunch Break](#)
- Podcast. [The Daily Poem Podcast](#). Recommended for HS.
[The Circe Institute](#) that hosts this podcast has many others, including ones about Homer, Shakespeare, the Victorian era, proverbs...
- Music. [A Piano in the House](#) by Robin Williams
- Music. Anything by The Avett Brothers
- Music. Morrecone: [Gabriel's Oboe](#)
- Music. Smetana: Ma Vlast ([excerpt for harp](#) or [full recording](#))
- Music. Barber: [Adagio for Strings](#)
- Music. Holst: [The Planets](#)
- Music. Beethoven: [Symphony No. 3](#) (hard to go wrong with any of his symphonies...)

Watch

- Speech. Pausch: [The Last Lecture, or Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams](#). You can watch this lecture online or read the book that he wrote on the same topic. Recommended for 8th and up.
- Documentaries. PBS or BBC nature documentaries (there are too many good ones to name, but [Planet Earth](#), [Blue Planet](#), and [Nature](#) are great).
- Documentary. [Our Planet](#).
- Documentary. [A Lion Called Christian](#).
- Film. The Darkest Hour. Recommended for HS.
- Film. Life is Beautiful (watch it in Italian: La Vita e Bella). Recommended for HS.
- Film. October Sky.

Do

- Unplug your electronics. Listen to the sounds and sights of nature. Have good conversations with peers and family.
- Check out the fishing, hiking, and camping in the Mogollon Rim! www.ArizonaCampGuide.com has a lot of resources to help you get started.
- Play the board game Settlers of Catan.
- Find somewhere to volunteer. Check out <https://www.volunteermatch.org/> to get inspired.
- Obtain a copy of *Diversions and Pastimes* by R.M. Abraham, a treasure trove of games and brain-bending puzzles. Each of its seven sections offers hours of diversion with simple household items, from easy problems to games with paper and knots and strings, there's sure to be something enjoyable for everyone. These sorts of problems are more enjoyable when done with someone else!

And More!

Mr. Gray compiled a phenomenal list of extra enriching activities for his 12th-grade Rhetoric students throughout the fourth quarter, and it's too excellent to try to summarize here. [Check it out.](#)