



***The Catholic High School of Baltimore***  
**Summer Reading**

**Teacher's Name:** Mr. Robinson

**School Year:** 2025-2026

**Grade Level:** 9

**Course No.:** 111

**Course Name:** Composition & Literature

**Academic Level (AP/Honors/CP/Archangel):** Honors

**ASSIGNED READING**

***We Have Always Lived in the Castle*** by Shirley Jackson

“Shirley Jackson’s iconic gothic novel follows Merricat, a strange and reclusive young girl, as she navigates life in a secluded estate with her sister and uncle following a family tragedy. When a distant cousin arrives, long-buried tensions surface, threatening their eerie, delicate world. A haunting tale of isolation, suspicion, and survival, this novel draws readers into a chilling psychological landscape where nothing is quite as it seems.”

—*from Goodreads*

**ASSIGNMENT**

Your assignment is to read ***We Have Always Lived in the Castle*** by the first day of class. During the first week, you will participate in a Socratic Seminar focused on the novel. A Socratic Seminar is a formal, student-led discussion based on open-ended questions about a text. In this format, students are expected to listen actively, think critically, and express their own ideas while responding thoughtfully to the contributions of others. To prepare, you should take notes and/or use post-it notes to mark key ideas, passages, or questions as you read. While you will not be graded on your annotations, they are essential for meaningful participation in the seminar. More details about the Socratic Seminar process will be shared in class.

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## ASSESSMENT

In addition to the Socratic Seminar, you will take a quiz on ***We Have Always Lived in the Castle*** during the first two weeks of the new school year.

You will also read additional selections by Shirley Jackson and research biographical information about her life and career. You will present your findings in a research paper.

## CONTACT

Please contact me at [\*\*erobinson@thecatholichighschool.org\*\*](mailto:erobinson@thecatholichighschool.org) if you have any questions about the summer reading assignment.

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