



TIMBERDOODLE



TIMBERDOODLE'S  
CURRICULUM HANDBOOK

2020-2021 Nonreligious Edition



# WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Congratulations on choosing to homeschool this year! Whether this is your first year or your tenth, we're confident you'll find that there is very little that compares to the thrill of learning!

## ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO!



Preparing for your first "school day" is very easy. First, peruse this guide yourself, then let your student review the materials so you can plan his schedule together. After planning, you'll simply turn the entire set over to your student and take your place as his coach while his independent learning ability takes off!

## GET SUPPORT

Are you looking for a place to hang out online with like-minded homeschoolers? Do you wonder how someone else handled a particular science experiment? Do you wish you could encourage someone who is just getting started this year? Join one or more of our Facebook Groups.

### **Timberdoodlers of all ages:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Timberdoodle/>



### **Timberdoodlers with high-school students:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HighSchoolTimberdoodle/>

### **Timberdoodlers using nonreligious kits:**

[www.facebook.com/groups/SecularTimberdoodle](https://www.facebook.com/groups/SecularTimberdoodle)

## SCHEDULE CUSTOMIZER

Your 2020–2021 Ninth-Grade Nonreligious Curriculum Kit includes access to our Schedule Customizer where you can not only adjust the school weeks, but also tweak the checklist to include exactly what you want on your schedule. To get started, just click the link in your access email and visit the scheduling website!

[www.TimberdoodleSchedules.com](http://www.TimberdoodleSchedules.com)

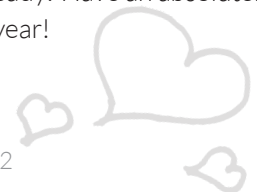
If you ordered through a charter school or don't have that link for some other reason, just email [schedules@Timberdoodle.com](mailto:schedules@Timberdoodle.com) and we'll get that sorted out ASAP. (Including your order number will really speed that process up for you.)

## WE WILL HELP

We would love to assist you if questions come up, so please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions, comments, or concerns. Whether you contact us by phone, email, or live online chat, you will get a real person who is eager to serve you and your family.

## YOU WILL LOVE THIS!

This year you and your student will learn more than you hoped while having a blast. Ready? Have an absolutely amazing year!



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# DEAR PARENT,

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Congratulations, and welcome to the high-school years! Whether this is your first year of homeschooling or you've come this far through years of teaching, you've now



reached a real milestone. Not only will your student continue planning for college, apprenticeship, or the specific vocation he has in mind, but you will also be working with him to help him become a truly independent learner.

## Your New Role

Think of your role this year as less of a teacher (step-by-step directions and oversight) and more of a career counselor/tutor. You are there to help him stay on track and to give direction and assistance when he gets stuck, but the primary responsibility falls to him. There are many ways to get to that point, but these steps worked for our family.

### 1. Annual Planning Meeting

At the beginning of the school year, Mom sat down with each student to iron out expectations, motivation, subjects, etc. We would discuss what our goals were, what subjects were mandatory, and which ones the student really wanted to add to the plan. The final step was to determine a completion date and calculate how many weeks we had to complete the work. If you plan around a typical school year, then 36 weeks is what you'll want to base your weekly checklist on. (We suggest that you also take some time at this meeting to lay out even longer-term goals, such as college or vocational education.)

# DEAR STUDENT,

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Welcome to your first year of high school! If you've been using Timberdoodle's curriculum kits, you'll already be familiar with how these courses are laid out. If this is your first year, there are a few things you'll want to know.

## **Simple Is Better**

We really believe that, so your guide is as simple as we could make it.

## **This Kit Is Complete-ish**

Timberdoodle's high-school curriculum kits are designed to give you a solid foundation and cover the basics. You will definitely want to add courses that dovetail with your field of interest. For instance, if you're bound for medical school, you will want to learn Latin and add a rigorous anatomy course. Of course, if you're headed to apprentice on a New Zealand ranch, you may better use your time on riding lessons and backcountry emergency medicine! Take a serious look at where you want to be in the next few years and make sure that this year's studies put you on solid footing for that plan.

## **1. The Planning**

First up are all the details on planning your year, including your annual planner and sample weekly checklists, the absolute backbones of Timberdoodle's curriculum kits. More on those in a moment.

## **2. Reading Challenge**

Next up is the reading challenge, complete with book ideas to give you a head start.

## **3. Item-by-Item Details**

We include short bios of each item in your kit, ideal for refreshing your memory on why each is included or what you will be covering this year. This is where we've tucked in any tips or tricks on specific courses for you.

## **4. Articles and Resources**

In this section, you'll find our favorite articles and tidbits amassed in our more-than-30 years of homeschool experience.

## **5. Reading Challenge Ideas**

Finally, we'll conclude with specific book ideas for your reading challenge this year.

## **All the Details Included**

This Timberdoodle curriculum kit is available in two different standard levels: Complete or Elite. This allows your family to choose the assortment best suited to your interest level, your family's schedule, and the budget. In this guide, you'll find an overview and any tips for each of the items included in the Elite Curriculum Kit. If your family purchased a Complete kit, or if you customized your kit, you chose not

# MEET YOUR ONLINE SCHEDULER

## GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR PLANNERS

### Use the Customizer

On the next pages you'll find sample weekly checklists for Complete and Elite kits. Before you photocopy 36 of them, though, take a moment to check out the custom online schedule builder that came free with your kit. You'll not only easily adjust the weeks, but you'll also tweak the checklist to include exactly what you want listed. Plus, you'll be able to print your weekly checklists directly from the schedule builder so you don't have to do that by photocopying! [www.TimberdoodleSchedules.com](http://www.TimberdoodleSchedules.com)

### Activating Your Account

Before you can get started, you'll need your account activated for the online schedule builder. If you didn't get

an activation email (perhaps you ordered through a charter school so we don't have your email address, or perhaps your parents ordered the curriculum under their email and you need that registration transferred to your own email address), shoot us a quick email at [schedules@Timberdoodle.com](mailto:schedules@Timberdoodle.com) and we'll get that straightened out ASAP. Including your order number really speeds that process up, but our team is skilled at finding your activation info with whatever order data you have.

### What's Your Dream Schedule?

Now that you're ready you'll want to know two things:

#### 1. How Many Weeks Do You Want to Do School?

A standard school year is 36 weeks + breaks. Some students prefer to expedite and complete the entire year in fewer weeks—a great option for those of you who'd like to get all this year's school done before an apprenticeship begins, for instance. Or perhaps your family, like ours, prefers to school year-round and keep that brain sharp. You will want to keep in mind your state and college requirements for your school year. If they need \_\_\_\_ weeks or \_\_\_\_ hours of school, make sure you meet or exceed that expectation.



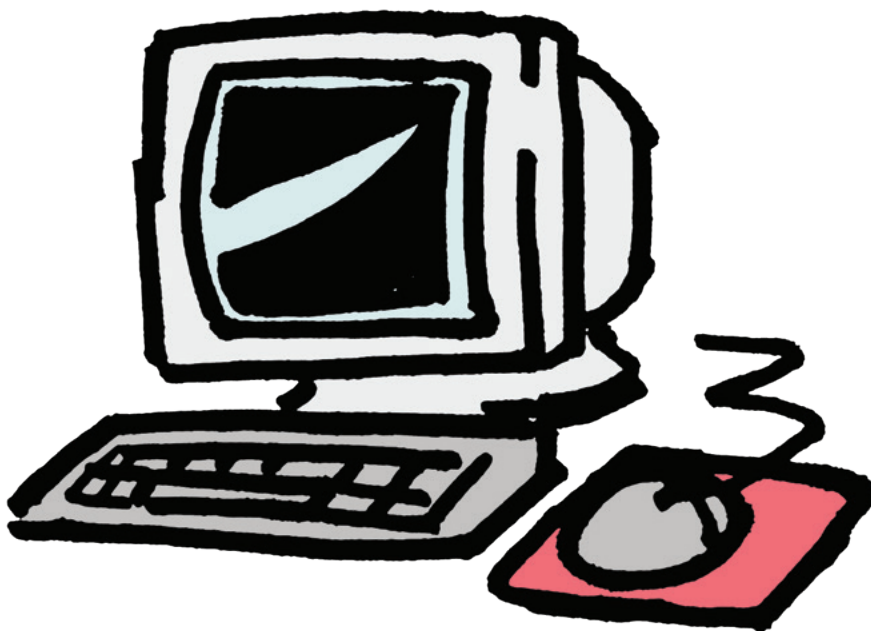
## 2. What Breaks Do You Want?

(Thanksgiving, Christmas, winter break, spring break... you could also add in weeks off that you're traveling, have guests, sports tournaments, or...)

Typically you'll be adding full-week breaks only, so unless your family is traveling to Disneyland® for your birthday, you don't need to add that to the calendar. For single-day breaks you'll likely prefer to just shuffle the work to earlier/later in the same week and keep on task otherwise. If you're using a daily schedule (next page), though, you may find it worth your time to enter days off, as well.

### Choosing Your Items

Now just pop that data into the online schedule and scroll down to see the items you might have in your kit. Unchecking the boxes for any items you don't have removes them from your list. You'll also see "Alternative Items" listed under each subject. This usually includes all of our most popular customizations for this grade so that you can simply check a box and switch the scheduler to a higher level of math, for instance.



### Add Custom Courses

Your course list is limited only by your imagination. Perhaps you have a volunteer responsibility that you need to log for your resume, family makes up a band and you'd like to have practice on this list, or you need to list ballet since that's P.E. this year. At the very bottom of the page, you'll find a place to add in just as many courses as you'd like. Just walk through the prompts on-screen to get it all set up.

*Continued on the next page.*

|                 | CURRICULUM  | LESSONS OR PAGES | = PER WEEK           |
|-----------------|---|------------------|----------------------|
| Language Arts   | English Language Skills                           | 75 lessons       | 2-3 lessons          |
|                 | Implications of Literature                        | 715 pages        | 20 pages             |
|                 | 99 Stories I Could Tell                           | 112 pages        | 3+ pages             |
|                 | Word Roots 3                                      | 57 sections      | 1-2 sections         |
|                 | The Reading Challenge                             | 13-104 books     | 1/3 to 3 books       |
| Math            | Math-U-See  | 30 lessons       | a 6-worksheet lesson |
|                 | World of Dots: Savanna                            | 24 puzzles       | 1 puzzle             |
| Thinking Skills | <h2>SEE YOUR HANDBOOK FOR THE COMPLETE CHART</h2> |                  |                      |
| History         |   |                  |                      |
| Science         |   |                  |                      |
| STEM            |   |                  |                      |
| Art             |   |                  |                      |
| Etc.            |   |                  |                      |

|                            | Language Arts        | Math | Thinking Skills | History | Science | STEM | Art | Etc. |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------|-----------------|---------|---------|------|-----|------|
| English Language Skills    | 2-3 lessons          |      |                 |         |         |      |     |      |
| Implications of Literature | 20 pages             |      |                 |         |         |      |     |      |
| 99 Stories I Could Tell    | 3+ pages             |      |                 |         |         |      |     |      |
| Word Roots 3               | 1-2 sections         |      |                 |         |         |      |     |      |
| The Reading Challenge      | 1/3 to 3 books       |      |                 |         |         |      |     |      |
| Math-U-See                 | a 6-worksheet lesson |      |                 |         |         |      |     |      |
| Extreme Dot-to-Dot         | 1 puzzle             |      |                 |         |         |      |     |      |

# SEE YOUR HANDBOOK FOR THE COMPLETE CHART

# CALCULATING YOUR CREDITS

## HOW TO FIGURE OUT YOUR HIGH-SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT



Every state has the prerogative to calculate high-school credits as it wishes, so we highly recommend that you familiarize yourself with local criteria. (HSLDA.org is an excellent starting place and has some comprehensive articles on this topic.)

That said, many people calculate credits based on hours spent learning. Typically anywhere from 120–180 hours a year counts as a single credit. That would be 3.33 hours to 5 hours a week in a traditional 36-week school year. So if you find you're spending an hour a day at least three days a week, then it is likely you're completing a one-credit course.

If you're spending 1.5 – 2.5 hours a week, you're likely completing a half-credit course.

Assuming you're completing the courses as intended, the following is one way to count the credits for your ninth-grade Timberdoodle curriculum. You do need to be completing the relevant assignments (usually the rule is at least 75% of the work) to count each credit.

Across the page you'll see a sample transcript for inspiration, and there is more help on grading here:  
<https://timberdoodle.com/blogs/td/how-to-grade>

Need more help? HSLDA offers an inexpensive transcript service designed to make this simple. As of this printing, <https://teachingnook.wordpress.com> also has an excellent free transcript template.

### ENGLISH

- 1 credit English I: English Language Skills
- 1 credit literature: Implications of Literature
- 1/4 credit composition: 99 Stories I Could Tell
- 1/4 credit grammar: Word Roots Level 3

### MATH

- 1 credit geometry: Math-U-See Geometry

### SCIENCE

- 1 credit biology: Friendly Biology

### SOCIAL SCIENCES

- 1 credit American history: People, Places...2

### ELECTIVES

- 1 credit critical thinking: Building Thinking Skills 3 Verbal
- 1/2 credit electricity: Mand Labs
- 1/4 credit art: TwoStick Painting Kit and How to Draw Almost Everything
- 1 credit computer applications: Premium Professor Teaches Office

# [SCHOOL NAME HERE] HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT 2020-2021

## STUDENT NAME

12345 Crazy-Smart Loop  
Anywhere, USA  
1(234)567-8910  
mykidsemail@email.com  
Student ID: 000-00-2005 (or DOB)

## SCHOOL NAME

12345 Crazy-Smart Loop  
Anywhere, USA  
1(234)567-8910  
myownemail@email.com

## NINTH GRADE 2020-2021

|                                | Credit      | Final Grade |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| English 1                      | 1           | B           |
| Literature                     | 1           | A           |
| Composition                    | .25         | A           |
| Grammar                        | .25         | A           |
| Geometry                       | 1           | B           |
| Biology                        | 1           | A           |
| American History               | 1           | A           |
| Critical Thinking              | 1           | A           |
| Electricity                    | .5          | A           |
| Art                            | .25         | A           |
| Computer Applications          | 1           | B           |
| <b>Total Credits &amp; GPA</b> | <b>9.25</b> | <b>3.68</b> |

## GRADING SCALE

|        | Letter | Points |
|--------|--------|--------|
| 90-100 | A      | 4      |
| 80-89  | B      | 3      |
| 70-79  | C      | 2      |
| 60-69  | D      | 1      |
| 0-59   | F      | 0      |

Parental Certification:

I, [parent name here], do hereby certify and affirm that this is the official transcript and record of [student's name here] in the academic studies of Fall 2020 through Spring 2021.

---

[parent name], parent/administrator/teacher/principal

---

date





# THE READING CHALLENGE

## BASED ON THE READING CHALLENGE FROM TIM CHALLIES

The Reading Challenge will get you reading a broader variety of books this year and perhaps discovering new favorites. This reading challenge is heavily adapted by us and used with permission from author and blogger Tim Challies.

### How It Works

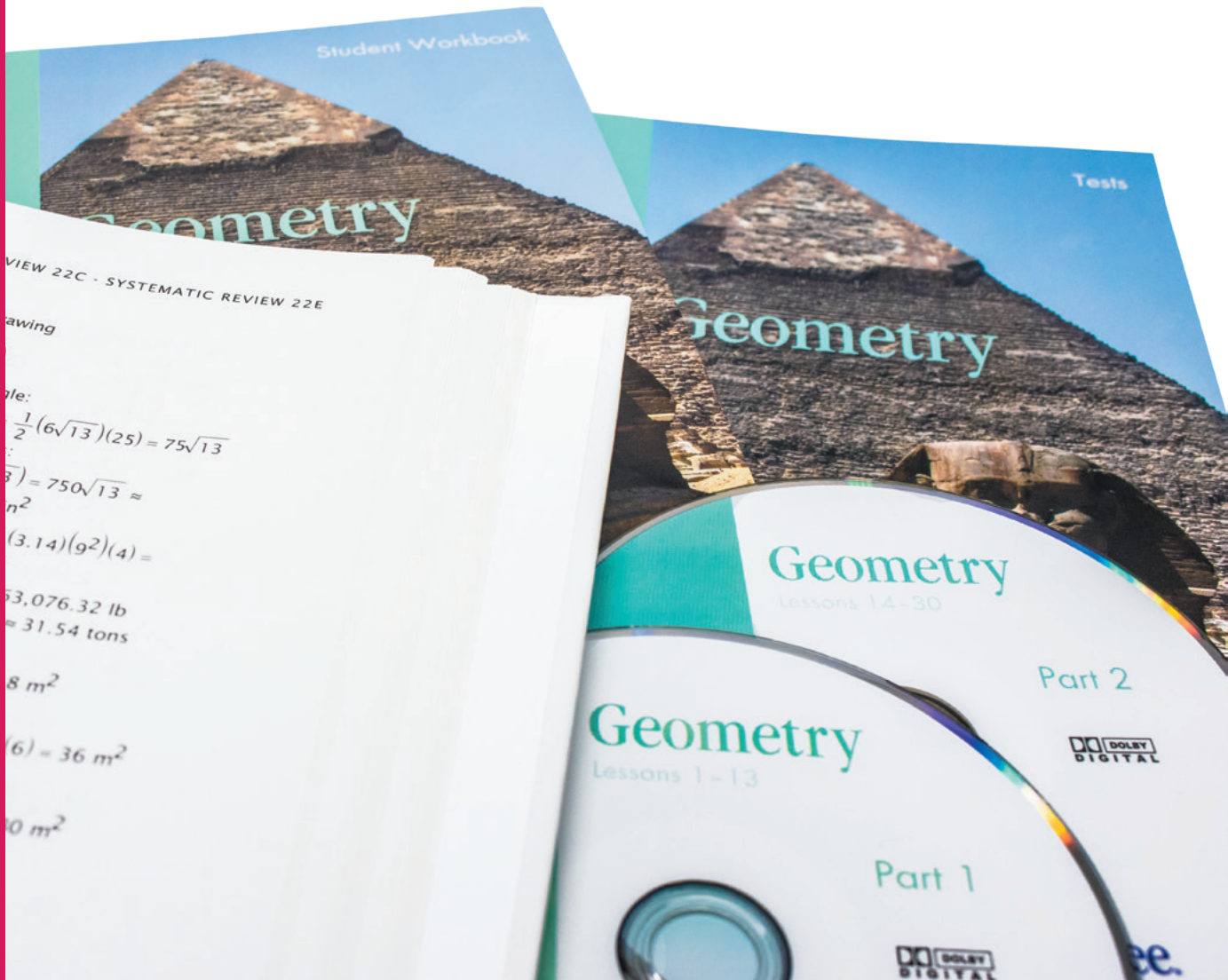
On the following pages you'll find four lists of books which you are meant to read one after another this year. Not all

families will opt to make it through all the lists, so you will need to choose a reading goal early in the year and set your pace accordingly.

The Light Reader plan has 13 books, which sets a pace of 1 book every four weeks. The majority of high-school students can and should do at least this much.

# THE LIGHT READER

| The Challenge  | The Book You Chose | Date Completed |
|--|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. An inspirational book   |                    |                |
| 2. A book about the world  |                    |                |
| 3. A biography   |                    |                |
| 4. A classic novel   |                    |                |
| 5. A book your grandparent (or other relative) says was his/her favorite at your age |                    |                |
| 6. A book about ancient history  |                    |                |
| 7. A book about the Roman Empire   |                    |                |
| 8. A book based on a true story  |                    |                |
| 9. A book an adult mentor recommends   |                    |                |
| 10. A book more than 200 years old   |                    |                |
| 11. A book about family  |                    |                |
| 12. A book about relationships or friendship   |                    |                |
| 13. A book about race or racial issues   |                    |                |



## MATH-U-SEE

If you are looking for a curriculum that ensures you will be able to fully understand each mathematical concept before moving on to another one, you have found it. For more than 20 years, Math-U-See's renowned mastery-based, student-paced program has been the answer for countless families. If you usually feel overwhelmed when mathematical topics are introduced, you need Math-U-See's systematic, precept-upon-precept math program.

# MATH-U-SEE

## COMPLETE ~ ELITE

With simple, uncluttered pages, Math-U-See is mastery-oriented, clear, to the point, and effective. In Math-U-See, new ideas are introduced step by step in a logical order, while concepts that have been mastered are reviewed periodically.

Math-U-See's teacher guide and supplemental DVD will teach more than just how to solve a math problem. They will also show why the problem is solved in this manner and when to apply the concept. On the DVDs, each lesson is demonstrated with kind-hearted enthusiasm. DVDs can be played on a DVD player or computer; however, Windows 10 users will need to download a separate video player.

While Math-U-See expects some parental involvement, by this grade you really will be able to work more independently. After all, you can certainly read the instruction manual and, of course, you will want to watch the DVD presentation before beginning each lesson. The instruction manuals also include complete answers with step-by-step solutions for all the exercises and tests, and there is extra instruction for the enrichment problems.

Math-U-See is laid out with step-by-step procedures for introducing, practicing, mastering, and reviewing concepts. How do you know when you have "mastered" a math concept? Not just when you get the answers right, but when you can teach the concept back, especially if you are able to do so with a word problem. Math-U-See will show you how.

You will want to decide as you start the year whether you will be completing the optional "Application and Enrichment"

section of each lesson—sometimes considered the honors portion. If these challenges truly overwhelm you, you should discuss with your teacher whether it would be appropriate to skip them this year. Otherwise, embrace them for the opportunity to help you learn more skills and train your brain to think logically.

It's worth mentioning that there are other reasons you may not need to complete every one of these pages. At the risk of oversimplifying, the practice worksheets (A, B, C) are to be used with the manipulatives until you reach an "aha!" moment and grasp the lesson. You may then move to the review pages (D, E, F) and should at least complete worksheet D in its entirety. If you are breezing through the pages you have several great options. One would be to complete every other problem, or you could skip E or F or both. (You do want to be sure you're not rusty on any of those problems before skipping, though—many students will do best completing all or most of the D, E, and F, worksheets.)

Worksheet G is the application/enrichment/extra-credit page. It's okay to skip but valuable to complete.

### Scheduling

You have 30 lessons to complete, so we suggest planning on 1 lesson a week, including the DVD as well as the textbook/workbook portions and any relevant tests.

However, as Mr. Demme points out, some lessons will take you longer than others to achieve mastery. If you find yourself "stuck" on a lesson, feel free to allow it to take you an extra week up to six times this year!

# WORLD OF DOTS

## COMPLETE → ELITE

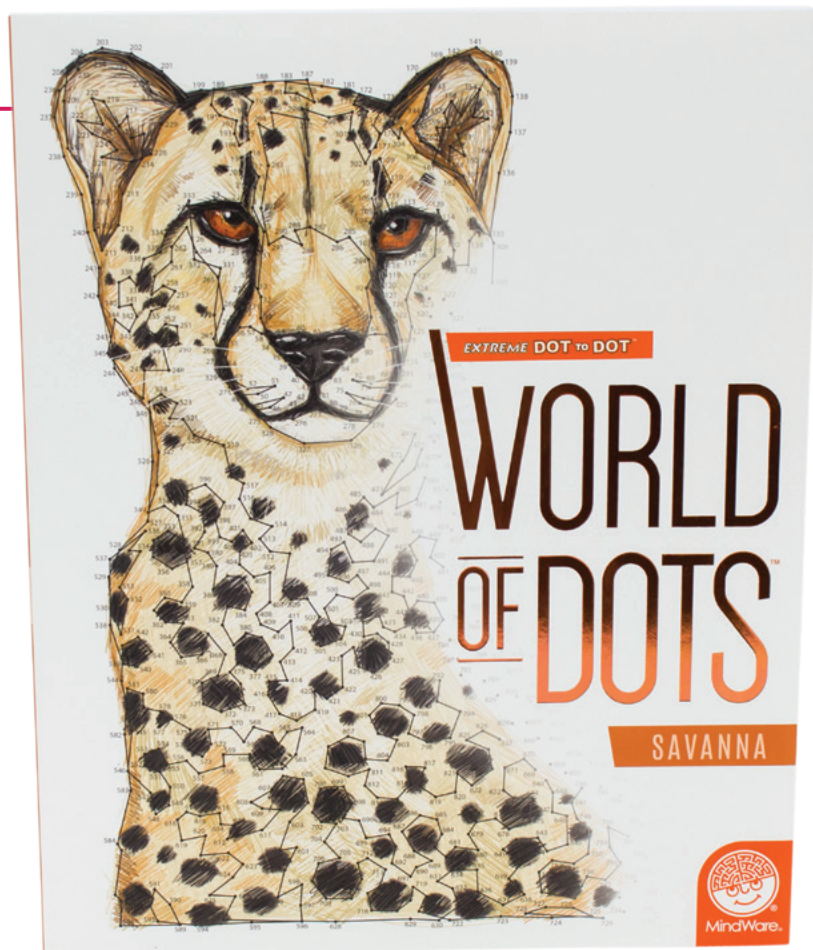
Dot-to-dots can simultaneously exercise and relax your brain. As you work to complete each dot-to-dot, both your left brain and right brain will be engaged while you practice mapping and concentration skills.

Addictive, complex, and amazingly clever, World of Dots: Savanna contains 24 puzzles of incredibly detailed illustrations of scenes from the savanna, from speedy cheetahs to lazing alligators.

Dot-to-dot books of this magnitude increase mental acuity and concentration skills. Puzzle solvers will enjoy the challenge these puzzles present and will be eager to complete each one.

### Scheduling

With 24 puzzles to complete, doing 1 a week will have you finishing early this year. Each pairs beautifully with a favorite podcast or audiobook for your reading challenge.







# 404 BOOK SUGGESTIONS

So you love the idea of the reading challenge, but you'd like a boost to get you started? You've come to the right place!

## Customize This!

You'll find a few ideas here for each challenge, but don't forget that you're not bound to our list. There are literally hundreds more options that may be even better for you. Use these pages as starter ideas and not as your final list.

## Will I See the Same Books Over and Over?

No, not on this list! However, you can expect to see all of these books appear on the lists for the high-school levels, since this list is the high-school reading challenge. Many books could easily fit into more than one category, but we only put each in one place on your list for your convenience. (Books that are part of a series are the one exception, as you may find an individual title in one spot and the whole series

## 404 BOOK SUGGESTIONS, CONT.

### 1. AN INSPIRATIONAL BOOK

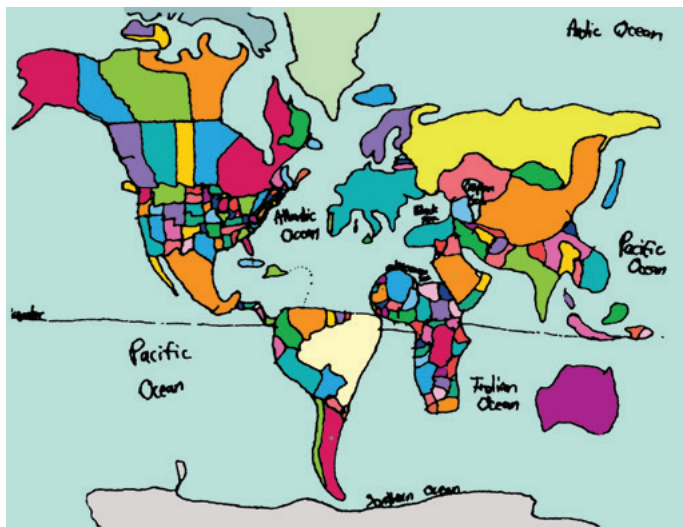
*Brave Companions* by David McCullough  
*The Book of Virtues* by William J. Bennett  
*Random Acts of Kindness* by the Editors of Conari Press  
*Chicken Soup for the Soul* series by Jack Canfield et al.

### 2. A BOOK ABOUT THE WORLD

*The Usborne Encyclopedia of Planet Earth*  
*Around the World in Eighty Days* by Jules Verne  
*Dove* by Robin Lee Graham with Derek L. T. Gill  
*The Elegant Universe* by Brian Greene  
*In the Beginning: Creation Stories from Around the World* by Virginia Hamilton  
*National Geographic Eyewitness to the 20th Century*  
*Don't Know Much About Planet Earth* by Kenneth C. Davis

### 3. A BIOGRAPHY

*Pathfinders* by Tonya Bolden  
*Portraits of Hispanic American Heroes* by Juan Felipe Herrera  
*Destiny of the Republic* by Candice Millard



*John Adams* by David McCullough  
*Bolivar: American Liberator* by Marie Arana  
*Alexander Graham Bell: An Inventive Life* by Elizabeth MacLeod

*Abe Lincoln: Log Cabin to White House* by Sterling North  
*George Washington: Frontier Colonel* by Sterling North  
*Kit Carson and the Wild Frontier* by Ralph Moody

### 4. A CLASSIC NOVEL

*Great Expectations* and others by Charles Dickens  
*Pride and Prejudice* and others by Jane Austen  
*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and others by Mark Twain  
*Little Women* and others by Louisa May Alcott  
*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte

### 5. A BOOK YOUR GRANDPARENT (OR OTHER RELATIVE) SAYS WAS HIS/HER FAVORITE AT YOUR AGE

Ask your grandparents or relatives. Or, if that's not possible, ask an older friend for a recommendation.

### 6. A BOOK ABOUT ANCIENT HISTORY

*The History of the Ancient World* by Susan Wise Bauer  
*The Usborne Encyclopedia of the Ancient World*  
*The Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt* by Elizabeth Payne  
*Tales of Ancient Egypt* by Roger Lancelyn Green  
*The Cat of Bubastes* by G.A. Henty  
*Mara, Daughter of the Nile* by Eloise Jarvis McGraw

### 7. A BOOK ABOUT THE ROMAN EMPIRE

*The Beacon at Alexandria* by Gillian Bradshaw  
*Masada: The Last Fortress* by Gloria Miklowitz  
*Song for a Dark Queen* by Rosemary Sutcliff  
*Ancient Rome: How It Affects You Today* by Richard J. Maybury

## 404 BOOK SUGGESTIONS, CONT.

### 88. A BOOK SET IN EUROPE

*The Winged Watchman* by Hilda van Stockum

*The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank

*Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen

*David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens

### 89. A BOOK SET IN AUSTRALIA

*Tomorrow, When the War Began* by John Marsden

*Ash Road* by Ivan Southall

*To the Wild Sky* by Ivan Southall

*A Town Like Alice* by Nevil Shute

*The Story of Australia* by A. Grove Day

### 90. A BOOK ABOUT ETIQUETTE

*Etiquette Rules!* by Nancy R. Mitchell

*Tiffany's Table Manners for Teenagers* by Walter Hoving

*Miss Manners' Guide to Excruciatingly Correct Behavior* and  
others by Judith Martin

*Emily Post's Etiquette* by Lizzie Post

### 91. A BOOK WITH A COLOR IN THE TITLE

*The Blue Castle* by L.M. Montgomery

*The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane

*The Scarlet Pimpernell* by Baroness Orczy

*Under the Blood-Red Sun* by Graham Salisbury

### 92. A BOOK PUBLISHED BETWEEN 1800-1899

*The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas

*Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens

*Ben-Hur* by Lew Wallace

*Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll

*Tess of the D'Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy



### 93. A BOOK PUBLISHED BETWEEN 1900-1949

*The Bridge of San Luis Rey* by Thornton Wilder

*Just David* by Eleanor H. Porter

*The Shepherd of the Hills* by Harold Bell Wright

*The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien

### 94. A BOOK PUBLISHED BETWEEN 1950-1999

*Farewell to Manzanar* by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and  
James D. Houston

*All Creatures Great and Small* by James Herriot

*The Crucible* by Arthur Miller

*The Master Puppeteer* by Katherine Paterson