



**CHESTERTON ACADEMY
OF THE SACRED HEART**

***Saint Thomas Aquinas*, by G.K. Chesterton
Senior Summer Reading Guide**

1. In what ways did St. Francis and St. Thomas contradict the ways of the societies in which they lived? What are the specific ways that Chesterton suggests they have appealed to generations in the most recent centuries by contradicting these recent generations? What kind of saint do you believe we need today that would contradict our society?
2. In what ways does Chesterton suggest that Francis and Aquinas were doing the same thing? Why do we sometimes have a hard time seeing that they were doing the same thing?
3. Why is chapter 2 named, "The Runaway Abbott?" Recount the stories of Aquinas's life that are shared here. What is important for us to know in this?
4. What relationship is suggested between mysticism and intellect in chapter 3? What views on the interaction between science and religion does Chesterton attribute to Aquinas and why? According to Chesterton, how must we argue with someone to be effective and why? What makes our arguments ineffective?
5. We learned about the Manicheans when we studied St. Augustine, who lived nearly a thousand years before St. Thomas Aquinas. Why is this relevant? What Augustinian themes emerge in chapter 4?
6. Look up the paintings that are discussed in "The Real Life of St. Thomas." What do you observe when contemplating these paintings? What can be learned from these? What are Chesterton's reflections on these works of art?
7. What did you observe in "The Approach to Thomism?" What should be the approach to Thomism?
8. Explain the term "anthropology?" What does Chesterton have to say about it?