



School District of South Orange and Maplewood

English Language Arts Department 6-12th Grade

"It is what you read when you don't have to that determines what you will be when you can't help it."
— Oscar Wilde

June 22, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Summer is soon upon us and with it comes a break from assigned reading during the school year and the freedom to make selections that truly appeal to readers, based on their own interests. Even more, some readers may choose one large book that may take the entire summer to read, select various books from the same author, or perhaps engage in the reading of a series. The possibilities are endless.

This summer, The English Language Arts department encourages all students to explore the vast selections of literature, from young adult selections to classics to contemporary nonfiction, to name a few possibilities. Of course, while reading, students may choose to annotate the text or take notes, but, essentially, the assignment is to read for pure enjoyment! *Advanced Placement courses in the English Language Arts department have specific summer reading assignments.

Local librarians have terrific suggestions for students of all ages, reading abilities, and interest levels. In addition, some links to reading lists for all students are:

- The *New York Times* Bestsellers (fiction, nonfiction, young adult)
<http://www.nytimes.com/best-sellers-books/combined-print-and-e-book-fiction/list.html>
- International Literacy Association's 2015 Reading List
<http://www.reading.org/Libraries/choices/yac2015.pdf>
- Amazon's 100 Young Adult Books to Read in a Lifetime:
http://www.amazon.com/b/ref=bhp_brws_100YA?ie=UTF8&node=11424451011&pf_rd_m=ATVPDKIK_X0DE R&pf_rd_s=merchandised-search-leftnav&pf_rd_r=0XM97VWF9E91N3TGCHG4&pf_rd_t=101&pf_rd_p=2091309542&pf_rd_i=283155
- For 6-8th grade students, the ALSC offers the following list:
<http://www.ala.org/alsc/sites/ala.org.alsc/files/content/2015%20Summer%20Reading%20List%206th%20to%208th%20grade.pdf>

An optional summer reading contest is:

- The *New York Times* Annual Summer Reading Contest
http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/05/07/the-sixth-annual-new-york-times-summer-reading-contest/?_r=0

Enjoy summer!

Sincerely,
Janine T. Gregory
English Language Arts Supervisor