

Coventry High School 2006 Summer Reading Program

Summer vacation means different things to each of us. For most students and teachers, it's a time to relax, to forget the pressures of the academic year, and to have some fun. It's an opportunity to grow in ways not open to us when school is in session. We work summer jobs; we take family vacations; we just hang out with friends. It's a time for adventure and reflection—thinking about what has been happening in our lives and wondering what the future will bring.

Your English teachers hope your summer reading will provide a great opportunity for this vital adventure and reflection to take place. Literature can open up new worlds for us to explore, and it can introduce us to the most amazing characters. It can make our hearts pound with excitement or break with sadness. It can make us laugh or cry. A good book teaches us about ourselves and about life itself. What better time than the summer to get in touch with the wonderful world of literature!

Your assignment is to read two books this summer, at least one of which must be chosen from your grade's reading list. If your second selection is not on the list, it must be appropriate for your age, and it cannot be the subject of a recent film. It should be a book you haven't read before or one which has not been assigned in a prior course. Although you need not receive advance permission for this free choice, feel free to ask your English teacher if it would be suitable for the purposes of this assignment. Much thought has gone into the English Department's selection of these titles. The American Library Association has identified many of the books on the reading lists as outstanding books for the college bound. They also introduce themes that will be discussed as a part of your English course next year. Additionally, each of the books serves as a model of good writing and a stimulus for thinking about the world in different ways. As such, these books will aid you in your preparation for your CAPT, SAT, AP, and college application essays. They are not difficult to locate. Many of these books may be found at the library or in local bookstores such as Borders or Barnes and Noble. They may also be ordered online at Amazon.com. It is always wise to check out, purchase, or order your books as early as possible.

Here are some suggestions for making your summer reading more enjoyable and more meaningful. First, set aside a regular time for reading. Next, read each book carefully and think about the ideas the author presents. You may wish to discuss your reading experiences with your friends and family. It would be a great idea to take notes and keep a journal of your impressions. Finally, develop your own interpretation of the books and judge them as pieces of literature. At the beginning of the school year, your English teachers will ask you to write a series of essays, which discuss these books. Your grades on these essays will be an important part of your first quarter's grade. Take this assignment seriously: Start out the year with good marks to your name, not zeros.

COMPLETING THE SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT IS MANDATORY FOR ALL COVENTRY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

ALL ESSAYS MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 11.

Note to Parents: the American Library Association has a useful website to use to help your son or daughter choose appropriate reading for the summer and for the whole year. Check out their booklist at:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/booklistsawards/bestbooksya/bestbooksyoung.htm>

The Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network also has an outstanding list of books for all students from preschool to grade 12 at:

<http://www.haisln.org/ReadingLists.htm>

Enjoy your summer.
The CHS English Department