



Hingham Public Schools Summer Reading 6-12 Summer 2018

Overview

All students in grades 6-12 are expected to participate in the Summer Reading Program. In June, English teachers will discuss summer reading lists and related instructions. The lists may be found on the Hingham Public Schools website at www.hinghamschools.com and at the Hingham Public Library. Lists will also be available in the front offices of each school and at local bookstores such as Barnes and Noble and Buttonwood.

Rationale

We view reading as a cornerstone for success throughout life. We promote summer reading because we believe that the *habit* of reading improves comprehension, syntactical awareness, vocabulary, spelling, and writing/grammatical skills. We also hope that students will explore and ultimately value reading as an enjoyable leisure-time pursuit. The ability to read well and widely is an important step on the path to personal fulfillment and job success.

Criteria and Sources for Selection

Reading lists for all grades are designed to accommodate a wide range of ability and interest levels. Adolescents gravitate toward novels that deal with important issues that are relevant to their lives, and so some books on the lists explore complex – and sometimes confusing – emotions related to relationships, violence, sexuality, and identity. Any given list will reflect a blend of classic and contemporary works of fiction and nonfiction, the depiction of characters who exhibit a variety of cultural differences, a representation of minority authors and characters, and a balanced list of titles in terms of gender appeal. Parents are encouraged to assist students in making choices that are appropriate for and acceptable to both the student and his/her family. For assistance with such decisions, you may wish to consult reviews on the School Library Journal website: <http://www.slj.com/>

Teachers use the following sources to assist them in making summer reading selections: recommendations from teachers, students, and parents; input from other school systems; suggestions from professional organizations such as ALA, IRA, YALTA, and NCTE; information received at professional conferences; newspaper reviews; information found on book-related websites; visits to libraries and bookstores.

Evaluation

In September, students will be assessed on their summer reading. Teachers provide a variety of grade appropriate options for writing and discussion. Some writing prompts will replicate those found on MCAS or AP exams.

Requirements

Each student is required to read a specified grade-level selection and **one** other book from the appropriate grade-level list. Hopefully the variety of titles will encourage students to exceed these minimum requirements.

Notes:

- Separate requirements are specified for seniors enrolled in AP Literature and juniors enrolled in AP Language.
- In grade 6 only, for 2018-2019, students are encouraged (but not required) to read additional selections from the list of choices.
- For the summer of 2018 the required reading for *all* students entering grades 6-8 at Hingham Middle School will be *Refugee* by Alan Gratz.

Students are encouraged to take notes or keep journals on their summer reading. Teachers will discuss note-taking strategies and options with students when they assign the summer reading. Suggested templates will also be posted on the website. Students who choose to take notes or keep journals on their summer reading choices will receive extra credit. Students should complete their summer reading before school starts.

We hope that your summer reading experience is an enjoyable and rewarding one. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Andrews, Director of English, at mandrews@hinghamschools.org

