



YORK COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

2016 Upper School English Summer Reading

Summer reading is an essential part of the Country Day experience; students are exercising their minds and preparing for the year ahead while also cultivating an interest in reading. We are excited about the **THREE choice selections** for summer reading, and we hope students will be, too. We encourage students to read THREE books during the summer that interest and challenge them. Summer reading books should be read actively and attentively, however books should be chosen with student enjoyment in mind.

When students return to school in the fall, they will lead a book chat to share their summer reading. Each student will lead one chat and share his/her books. Students may also read books as part of a summer **book club** and prepare the book chat together. In other words, students may want to consider getting together with colleagues over the summer, creating book clubs, and focusing on one or two particular choice novels. *This club concept is optional---though, might be fun.*

A rubric is used to help students as they prepare for this chat. There is no additional summer assignment; however, we do strongly encourage students to annotate their texts and/or keep a journal. Students should individually select their books and prior to reading and/or purchasing these selections, have the books approved by any member of the English department. This is for two reasons: 1. We want to make sure that the choice selection is grade appropriate and 2. The book should not be a selection that is taught within our current curriculum. Finally, we highly recommend, students pick three books each from a distinct genre. For example, if a student chooses one non-fiction text (a memoir), the second selection might be a science fiction or a mystery novel and the third, a graphic novel. This intentional selection will promote diversity with choices and allow for interesting contrast and comparison.

If a student is checking a book out from his/her local library and needs to return it prior the start of school, we recommend that he/she take notes and keep a quotation journal, as this will help them prepare for and present the book chat. While students are not required to have the books with them at the beginning of the school year, he/she is required to recall specific ideas and details gathered from the text.

In choosing books, we are always available for consultation and would be happy to offer suggestions that are grade appropriate. In addition, please visit the following resources, as they are helpful when making summer selections:

English 9-12

Huffington Post: Summer Reads for Kids of All Ages

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/common-sense-media/the-best-june-books-for-kids-of-all-ages_b_7496674.html

Publisher's Weekly:

<http://best-books.publishersweekly.com/pw/best-books/summer-reads-2016/top-10>

National Association of Scholars: Top Picks

https://www.nas.org/resources/recommended_books

U.S. News and World Report: All Student Reads Before College

<http://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/slideshows/read-these-books-before-college>

Business Insider: Reading Lists from the Best Private Schools

<http://www.businessinsider.com/summer-reading-lists-at-prestigious-private-schools-2015-7>

Pearson Publishing: Books for High School (Canon)

http://www.phschool.com/curriculum_support/reading_list/high_school.html

GoodReads: Popular High School Picks

<https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/highschool-summer-reading>

English Honors 11-12 / Pre-Collegiate Selections:

Business Insider Picks for the College Bound:

<http://www.businessinsider.com/summer-reading-books-at-top-colleges-2015-7>

Berkeley Summer Reading:

<http://reading.berkeley.edu>

Harvard College Admission's Reading List:

<https://www.fas.harvard.edu/~sica/reading.htm>

Life Hack: Essential Books

<http://www.lifehack.org/articles/lifestyle/25-essential-books-that-every-college-student-should-read.html>

NPR: What the College Kids Are Reading

<http://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2015/07/23/424637255/what-the-college-kids-are-reading>

Have a wonderful summer! This year is hardly over, and we are already excited to begin anew.

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2016 Summer Reading Book Chat

| | Advanced/Proficient/Deficient |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <p>Text Content/Understanding: <i>Be prepared to share the following information:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Title/Genre/Author 2. Quick Summary/Plot/Characters 3. A FEW Key Literary Elements (Themes, Mood, Setting, Symbols, Irony, Foreshadowing, Conflict) 4. Review of the book: Thumbs up/down <i>(What did you expect before you read? Learn? Explanation is clear and comprehensive.)</i> | |
| <p>Time: TBA (Pending formal assignment.)</p> | |
| <p>Field questions: Q/A session at end. <i>Questions are answered thoughtfully and thoroughly.</i></p> | |
| <p>Professional, Polished, Prepared: <i>(Share the book so that classmates gather an informative and interesting “take-away.”)</i></p> | |