



Keep those pages turning!



Summer is a time for **travel**, *fun*, *learning* and **adventure**. You should be active. You should enjoy sleeping late, or going to Kings Island, or working a summer job. But don't let your brain turn to mush.

That's right: don't let your brain turn to mush! Research shows that if you go the whole summer without exercising your brain, you will lose at least a month of learning (Cooper). Conversely, if you *do* read over the summer, your vocabulary, grammar, writing and spelling will improve. In a year when test scores become even more important, these are vital skills! Those who read over the summer will be more successful in the fall than those who do not.¹

Reading should be fun! There are so many books out there; surely there are several you would enjoy. Here are a few my current juniors enjoyed reading. **Caution: some of these titles may be for mature audiences.**

Realistic Fiction

Laurie Halse Anderson, *Wintergirls*
Nick Hornby, *Slam*
Anna Godbersen, *Luxe*
Sue Monk Kidd, *The Secret Life of Bees*
Billie Letts, *Where the Heart Is*
Jodie Picoult, *My Sister's Keeper*

Non-Fiction

Andre Agassi, *Open*
Paul Daugherty, *Chad: I Can't Be Stopped*
Dustin Pedroia, *Born to Play: My Life in the Game*
Ken Rappoport, *Guts and Glory: Making it in the NBA*

Fantasy/ Sci-Fi


Douglas Adams, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Universe*
Jim Butcher, *The Dresden Files* (series)
Gregory Maguire, *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West*
Margaret Peterson Haddix, *Among the Hidden*
Michael Scott, *The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel* (series)

Love Stories & Tear Jerkers

Sarah Dessen, *Along for the Ride*
Simone Elkeles, *Perfect Chemistry*
Nicholas Sparks, *The Last Song*

Suspense/ Scary

John Connolly, *The Book of Lost Things*
Anthony Horowitz, *Storm Breaker*
Alice Sebold, *The Lovely Bones*

¹ Cooper, H., Nye, B., Charlton, K., Lindsay, J., and Greathouse, S. The Effects of Summer Vacation on Achievement Test Scores: A Narrative and Meta-analytic Review. *Review of Educational Research*, 66: 227-268, 1996. Also Krashen, S., (2009). Anything but Reading [ ERIC]. *Knowledge Quest*, 37 (No. 5), 19-25.



The Assignment

1. Read 150-200 pages of whatever book(s) you would like to read.
2. Mark at least 2 passages in your reading; these can be important for many reasons: they are funny, confusing, shocking, scary, or perhaps they are meaningful to you on a personal level.
3. During the first week of school, you and I are going to talk about your summer reading; make sure you have your book(s) with you when we start school.
4. During the first week of school, you are also going to write a 1-2 page response (not summary) telling me what you think of the book you read.
5. Once school starts, we will continue independent reading on a weekly basis, so if there are some books you don't get to this summer, don't worry.



If you can't wait to share your books with me (or if you have any questions), feel free to contact me over the summer: apolzinetti@wayne-local.com.

Mrs. Angee Polzinetti
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My reading list 😊

