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Welcome to College Prep/Dual Credit English 12! This course is intended to prepare you for the rigor of college reading and writing. One of the first assignments of the class is most likely something you already do on a regular basis...READ. However, the great thing is – you will be *getting credit for reading over the summer!*

### ***Why read over summer break?***

Research has shown that ***the number of books read during the summer*** by high school students has a consistent and direct correlation to academic gains (Heyns). Conversely, it has also been proven that students who ***do not read*** fall behind. These net gains and losses are cumulative over the years with the summer readers more likely becoming academic success stories (Johnson). *At WHS, we want you to be successful!!*

For these reasons, ***all*** English students, not just Advanced Placement English students, are to read one or more books over the summer.

A summer break from school should not mean a break from learning. Your ability to continually improve reading skills is a valuable life skill that will help far beyond the classroom. Just a few of the specific academic benefits include:

- Improved comprehension skills
- Increased reading speed
- Increased vocabulary
- Improved writing
- Improved spelling and grammar
- Potential increases in ACT/SAT scores

If you have questions over the summer about the reading assignment, please e-mail me. I will be delighted to help you!

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WHS English Teacher  
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\*Taken from the Heyns Study, “Summer Learning and the Effects of Schooling” and the Johnson Report (from Karl Alexander and Doris Entwisle’s study), “Building Effective Programs for Summer Learning.” (all of these can be viewed at “Highlights of Research on Summer Reading and Effects on Student Achievement” <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/research.htm>)

## COLLEGE PREP/DUAL CREDIT ENGLISH 12 SUMMER READING

Choose a **memoir, biography, travel essay, or other nonfictional work** (see list below) that you find interesting to read. You might refer to such sources as *The New York Times* bestseller lists, friends' or parents' suggestions, [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) reviews, library or bookstore recommendations, or see me for titles.

### Some Suggestions...

(you are welcome to choose others *not* on this list; just be sure it is **nonfiction**)

*And One More Thing Before You Go...* by Maria Shriver

*Privilege of Youth* by Dave Pelzer

*Ideas and Opinions* by Albert Einstein

***A Captain's Duty: Somali Pirates, Navy Seals, and Dangerous Days at Sea*** by Richard Phillips

*It's Not About the Bike* by Lance Armstrong

*Kaffir Boy* or *Kaffir Boy in America* by Mark Mathabane

***Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen***  
by Christopher McDougall

***Unbound: A True Story of War, Love, and Survival*** by Dean King

*Don't Eat This Book: Fast Food and the Supersizing of America* by Morgan Spurlock

*Life's Greatest Lessons: 20 Things That Matter* by Hal Urban

*Oprah Winfrey: A Biography* by Helen S. Garson

*Out of Africa* by Isak Dinesen

***Appetite for America: How Visionary Businessman Fred Harvey Built a Railroad Hospitality Empire That Civilized the Wild West*** by Stephen Fried

*Sam Walton: Made in America, My Story* by Sam Walton

*The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* by Stephen R. Covey

*Under the Tuscan Sun* or ***Everyday in Tuscany*** both by Frances Mayes

*A Beautiful Mind* by Sylvia Nasar

*Without Reservations: The Travels of an Independent Woman* by Alice Steinbach

*Go for the Goal: A Champion's Guide to Winning in Soccer and Life* by Mia Hamm

*Into Thin Air* or *Into the Wild* both by Jon Krakauer

***Freedom Writers Diary: How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change...***  
by Freedom Writers with Erin Gruwell

## AFTER READING THE BOOK...

Write a 2-3 page response in which you discuss your reaction to and overall impression of the work. *What did you learn or come to understand by reading this book? What specific parts "spoke" to you and why?* Be sure to give specific quotations (include page numbers) from the book for support. Also include whether or not you would recommend the book to others – and give your rationale for either recommending or not. Avoid book summary. (Be sure to include the author and title of the book in the introductory paragraph!)

**ASSIGNMENT IS DUE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL – August 23!**