

Welcome to College Prep English 12! This course is intended to prepare you for the rigors 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). *And you want to be successful!!*

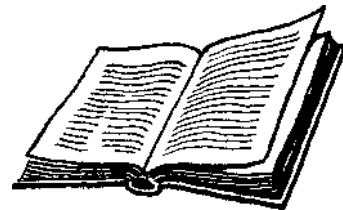
For these reasons, *all* English students, not just AP English students, are to read one or more books over the summer.

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, call or e-mail me. I will be delighted to help you!

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*Taken from the Heyns Study, "Summer Learning and the Effects of Schooling" and the **Johnson** Report (building from Karl Alexander and Doris Entwisle's 1996 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.nystnysed.gov/libdev/summer/research.htm>>

COLLEGE PREP SUMMER READING

Choose a **memoir, biography, 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, 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
It's Not About the Bike by Lance Armstrong
Kaffir Boy or *Kaffir Boy in America* by Mark Mathabane
Let's Roll by Lisa Beamer
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
Qorah Winfrey: A Biography by Helen S. Garson
Out of Africa by Isak Dinesen
The Night Trilogy: Night. Dawn. The Accident by Elie Wiesel
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 by Frances Mayes
A Beautiful Mind by Sylvia Nasar
Without Reservations: The Travels of an Independent Woman by Alice Steinbach
Funny In Farsi by Flrsoozeh Dumas
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 Wdjrs Diary: How a reacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change...
by Freedom Writers with Erin Gruwell

AFTER READING THE BOOK...

Write a 2-3 page paper 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 introduction!)*

ASSIGNMENT IS DUE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL - August 25th!