

## What is the PISD philosophy behind high school summer reading?

### **PISD encourages all high school students to read over the summer to**

- help students maintain English Language Arts skills over the summer break
- expose students to quality literature that they may not pick up on their own
- promote independent reading, inquiry, and scholarship which will facilitate students as life-long learners

### **PISD requires high school students who are enrolled in AP or Pre-AP English to read over the summer to**

- allow teachers to begin literary discussions at the level of depth and complexity required in an Advanced Academics course during the first weeks of school
- build a base of literature from which students will draw when completing advanced placement assessments

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## High School Summer Reading

### 2009-2010

“Books are the bees which carry the quickening pollen from one to another mind.”

**James Russell Lowell**

## Activities / Grading

All high school students are encouraged to read from this list over the summer.

Students in AP or Pre-AP English classes are required to read over the summer. Students in Pre-AP English I or Pre-AP English II have one common required title for all students. Students in AP English III or AP English IV are required to read two books: one common title for all students **AND one self-selected** novel from their grade level list. Students will be completing oral and written assignments during the first three weeks of school based on their reading of these books.

Projects/activities will be assigned by the teacher and discussion over the novels will begin the first week of school. Students will receive a **major grade** for the work they complete over their summer reading by the third week of school. Any late work or make-up work related to the summer reading should be completed by the end of the first six-weeks grading period.

## How were the books chosen for these lists?

Pre-AP English teachers and administrators meet several times a year to discuss and determine the summer reading list. Books are chosen based on the following criteria:

- Appropriate reading level for independent summer reading
- High interest for students at the designated grade level
- Literary merit/promote rich discussion and literary analysis
- Recognized works for inclusion on the AP exams

Please note that some of the books on these lists may contain **mature language or situations**. We strongly encourage parents and/or guardians to preview the books.

## English I - Pre-AP

### Required Book:

*A Separate Peace* by John Knowles

## English II - Pre-AP

### Required Book:

*Animal Farm* by George Orwell

## English III – AP (Must read two books)

### Common Book (required for all):

*Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortensen

### Choices (one of these is also required):

*Demon in the Freezer* by Richard Prescott  
*Devil in the White City* by Eric Larson  
*Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser  
*The Devil’s Highway* by Luis Alberto  
*The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair

## English IV - AP (Must read two books)

### Common Book (required for all):

*The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver

### Choices (one of these is also required):

*A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving  
*Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison  
*The Things They Carried* by Tim O’Brien  
*One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* by Ken Kesey  
*Light in August* by William Faulkner  
*Jude the Obscure* by Thomas Hardy