

Pat Neff Summer Reading Requirements

An important part of this academic program is **summer reading**, which offers an opportunity for enrichment and provides the vehicle for opening school activities.

Use the attached list to choose books that interest you and read them this summer. You can find a brief summary of each book by searching any Northside ISD middle school library catalog and locating the title in WebCat, <http://webcat.nisd.net/>. You can also find information about each of these titles in the local San Antonio Public Library online catalog <http://sapl.sat.lib.tx.us/>.

Summer reading is required for all students enrolled in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Pre-AP/Honors Language Arts. It is optional (extra credit) for students entering Neff who are not enrolled in the Pre-AP Language Arts program.

Because you will read the book in the summer and complete assignments when school begins, you will want to do the things good readers do in order to remember what they have read. Some of the strategies you might choose include the following:

- Write a short summary at the end of each chapter in order to help you find information for assignments when school starts.
- Write brief, personal responses to important events in the story.
- Make a list of important quotes and what you think they mean.
- Jot down words and phrases that are new to them.
- Identify main conflicts, events, ideas, or themes in the book.
- Ponder the importance of the story's setting.
- Note characters, their motives, and how they change.
- Determine the author's purpose and point of view.
- Examine the book's tone and mood.
- Think critically about the text – predict, infer, distinguish between facts/opinions.
- Compare the book with other books they've read or movies they've seen.

Please note that these are suggestions to help you be successful. These are not required assignments. You may choose other strategies that work better for you. When school starts, your Language Arts teacher will give you a specific assignment to complete for your book.

If you have any questions, you may contact Arden McLean, English department coordinator at (210) 397-4100 or ardenmclean@nisd.net. In the meantime, happy reading!