

## Top Ten Reasons for Summer Reading

10. People on the beach will think you're smart.
9. Lifting heavy books tones the upper arm.
8. When your parents ask you to do chores, you can say, "Gee, Mom, I can't; I'm doing homework."
7. Your family owns stock in Post-it notes.
6. Your English teacher will think you're wonderful.
5. You start the year further ahead than those slackers who didn't do their summer reading.
4. Your first grade for the new school year will be a good one.
3. You get to know what your teacher expects.
2. Your brain stays sharp and vigorous (look it up if you don't know).
1. You might read a book you actually like.



*The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them.*

attributed to Mark Twain

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*2008 Summer Reading Program for Pre-AP<sup>®</sup> and AP<sup>®</sup> students*



J.P. STEVENS  
HIGH SCHOOL  
ENGLISH  
DEPARTMENT

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Dear parents and students,

Summer reading offers an opportunity for enrichment and is a vehicle for beginning a rich academic experience the first days of school. In addition, it is an integral part of a well-developed honors and AP academic program. Each campus is responsible for developing a summer reading list that is appropriate for its students. The Stevens High School English Department has worked hard to develop a list of books that students will enjoy but will also prepare them for the vigorous academic challenges they can expect in the coming school year. Students should be aware that on the first day of school, they will be expected to share the books that they read, through discussion using the book notes on Post-its. The exam on the books will also be the first week.

Thank you for trusting your children to us. If you have questions, you can email Susan Nunan, Stevens' English Department Coordinator at

[susannunan@nisd.net](mailto:susannunan@nisd.net)

“Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.”

--Joseph Addison

## **Your summer reading assignment:**

As you read your teacher's book selection(s), use sticky notes (Post-It) notes to interact with your reading. When you return to school in August, your teacher will have specific assignments for you to do with these notes. Work on summer reading novels will begin the first day of school, so you must be finished with your reading and the notes the day BEFORE school begins. Using 1”X1½ “ notes is recommended. In addition, you may wish to use different colored notes to differentiate between the categories. Use the letter codes in parentheses to denote which category your note applies to. Take special care to use the stickies to note any time you see a change—shifts in tone, mood, character behavior, or anything else. Those are usually important.

The categories that you will note must include the following: (C) Character, (MT) mood and tone, (S) setting, (F) figurative language including imagery and symbols, (D) diction (word choice), (T) transitions and change, (CON) connections you make with yourself, other literature, historical events, or anything else you think of.

## **Book assignments and sticky note expectations:**

**Freshmen**—*The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd

A minimum of 50 sticky notes with at least 5 in each area.

**Sophomores:** *Of Mice and Men*, and *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck.

A minimum of 60 sticky notes total with at least 6 in each category.

**Juniors:** *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck

A minimum of 80 notes with at least 6 in each category

**Seniors**—both dual credit and AP: *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe, and either *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel or a book of your choice from the list on the Stevens High School website.

A minimum of 100 sticky notes total with at least 6 in each category

The better—the more complete, the more comprehensive—your notes are, the better you will do on the test. In addition, the work we will ask you to do on the book will be easier.